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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI government's compliance with the Open **Government Act?**

Let your voice be heard! www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

NSIDE



Muted Reaction

U.S. airports and border agents waved people through with little screening for Mexico's deadly swine flu.

NATION...Page 16

Youth **Envoy** Marianas Universe Sorene Maratita shares her thoughts about being a youth am-

bassador.



CAMPUS LIFE...Page 18

22 NMI residents donate \$23.2K to nat'l campaigns. PAGE 2 Reyes hopes court will be lenient on Villagomez. PAGE 5

SINCE IMPLEMENTATION OF HQT POLICY

Salaries of 114 teachers cut, as 151 enjoy wage increases

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

> ince the Highly Qualified Teachers policy was enforced two years ago at public schools in the CNMI, some 114 teachers have had their sala-

ries cut, mainly because of the new HQT compensation plan adopted by the Board of Education.

At the same time, the Public School System approved salary increases for 151 teachers who have met the certification requirements.

The Board of Education decided two years ago not to renew the contract of teachers who did not fulfill the Praxis exams requirement after June 2006. It amended the pay plan to allow teachers a one-year contract and reduced the wages of those who failed to pass the Praxis exams.

> "PSS reduced the salaries of 114 teachers at the end of June 2006 and increased salaries of See SALARIES on Page 4

PSS teacher turnover rate at 11 percent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

The average turnover rate for public school teachers from school year 2004 to 2008 was pegged at 11 percent, based on a recent report issued by the Public School System and the State Board of Education.

The system's leadership team emphasized, though, that student achievement at 20 public schools showed a

See PSS on Page 4

Fund threatens to stop contribution to OPA

Citing non-completion of audits due to lack of auditors, other priorities

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund yesterday threatened to withhold its mandatory 1 percent annual contribution to the Office of the Pubto complete audits that were requested at least 15 months ago.

But acting public auditor Rosauro D. Zapanta said yesterday an agency's 1 percent mandatory annual contribution to OPA

lic Auditor, citing OPA's failure does not necessarily mean an audit every year.

"The 1 percent is not tied to any audit, and the excess funding goes back to the general fund," said Zapanta.

See FUND on Page 4



Members of the Retirement Fund board of trustees meet at the Fund's

Inos confirmation hearing on Friday is scheduled for 9am Friday in the

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com

The Senate is set to vote Friday whether to confirm Eloy Inos as the new lieutenant governor of the Com monwealth.

The public is invited to testify before Inos the Senate about the

appointment. The body will take that into account when making a decision, Senate President Pete Reyes said yesterday. The hearing

Senate chamber on Capital Hill. Gov. Benigno Fitial submit-

ted Finance Secretary Inos' name to the Senate on Monday. Under the CNMI Constitution, whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the governor must appoint a

successor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The position is currently va-See INOS on Page 4







WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ADULT IMMUNIZATIO

IMMUNIZATION IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Most parents wouldn't think of letting their children go without immunization. Yet, these very same adults, and even the parents of these adults, suffer from infectious diseases-diseases that adult immunization can easily prevent. Some are unaware that adult vaccines exist that can give them, longer healthier lives. Some think immunization is just for kids, and others are procrastinators. But when these people's lives are damaged or cut short, far more than their families suffer. Our entire society suffers.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON OUR SOCIETY?

Illness is expensive. Each year the CNMI government spends thousands of dollars treating adults for illnesses-illnesses that vaccines could have prevented. The dollars are staggering, but what price can you put on a human life? What price can you put on a family's agony as they watch as a mother, a father, a husband, or a wife struggle with debilitating disease? What is the price when the battle is lost?

Our nation proudly points to our many childhood immunization accomplishments, we have reduced the cost of the health care, improved our children's lives, and we have reduced the number of preventable deaths. Just imagine the impact our society if adults were equally protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

WHICH VACCINES SHOULD ADULT RECEIVE?

■ Influenza

Influenza vaccination is readily available and must be repeated each year.

Pneumococcal

The elderly and people with certain medical conditions, such as, chronic lung disease or immunosuppression, are most susceptible to pneumococcal disease; people under 65 will need booster shot when they reach 65 if more than 5 years have passed since the first dose.

■ Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td)

Booster doses of Td are needed at 10-year interval throughout a person's life.

■ Chicken Pox (Varicella)

Adults have a far greater risk of complications from this disease. These include swelling of the brain, pneumonia, and even death. Protection is crucial for anyone who has not had this disease and has not been vaccinated.

Hepatitis A

Adults need protection if they live in the U.S. communities, or travel to other countries with high rates of Hepatitis A. This vaccine is essential for those who have chronic liver disease, are injection drug users, or are men who have sex with men.

■ Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is the primary sexually transmitted infection we can immunize against. It is more 100 times more contagious than the virus that caused AIDS, and there is no cure. It is known as the "Silent disease" because it may infect people without making them feel sick. In fact, nearly one-third of those infected have no idea how they got the infection (disease)

For more information call Immunization Program at 236-8745. Paid for by federal grant Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Public Health, Immunization Program.

Local

22 NMI residents donate \$23.2K to nat'l campaigns

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

At least 22 CNMI residents contributed a total of \$23,255 to the 2007-2008 presidential campaigns of now President Barack H. Obama, former Sen. John S. McCain (Republican) and former Sen. Fred D. Thompson (Republican), records from the Federal Election Commission as of yesterday shows.

Over 60 percent or \$13,965 of the campaign donations from the CNMI were for McCain, a Republican.

The other 38 percent or \$8,790 was for Obama, a Democrat, while 2 percent or \$500 was for Thompson, a Republican.

The donations, which ranged from \$15 to \$2,700, were from individuals who put the zip code 96950 on their filing with the Federal Election Commission.

Top donors

Triple J Saipan Inc. president Robert H. Jones made three separate contributions of \$1,700 and two \$500, totaling \$2,700. The donations were for McCain.

Lawyers Masood Karimipour, James Benedetto, and Anthony Long each made a \$2,300 contribution to the Obama campaign. Long made two contributions totaling \$2,300.

Jet Holding's Juan S. Tenorio

donated \$2,200 in three separate occasions to McCain.

Margaret A. Jones of Triple J Saipan ranked fourth with a one-time contribution of \$2,000 to McCain.

Lawyer Howard P. Willens also made a one-time \$1,500 donation to McCain.

Other donors

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, a former Republican who later formed the Covenant Party, donated \$1,000 to the McCain campaign.

Newly appointed Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lynn Ann Knight of Tan Holdings Corp., and DFS Galleria's Marian Aldan-Pierce each contributed \$1,000 to McCain.

Contributing \$500 each were lawyer Vincent J. Seman for Mc-Cain; Juan Guerrero of Insurance and Business Management Corp. for Obama; United Micronesian Development's Russell K. Snow for McCain; and Cheryl Anne Snow, also for McCain.

Lawyer Mark Scoggins contributed a total of \$600 to Obama. The donations were made on two separate occasions.

Only Daniel Nielsen, a retiree, made contribution to Thompson on two separate occasions of \$250 each, for a sum of \$500.

Up to nine donations

Retiree Herbert Soll, who is also

a former attorney general, made nine separate contributions of \$25 to \$100 to the Obama campaign, totaling \$330.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also made nine separate contributions of \$25 to \$30 each for a total of \$230, to Obama.

Lawyer Pam Blackburn made two separate contributions totaling \$200 to the Obama campaign.

William E. Hunter of Aquarius Beach Tower donated \$15 and \$50, for a total of \$65, to McCain.

Jon Anderson of Bridge Capital LLC donated \$30 to the Obama campaign.

These figures are based on information submitted to the Federal Election Commission (www.fec.gov), an independent regulatory agency established in 1975 to administer and enforce the Federal Election Campaign Act.

FECA limits the sources and amount of the contributions used to finance federal elections, requires public disclosure of campaign finance information and, in tandem with the Primary Matching Payment Act and the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act, provides for the public funding of presidential elections.



EQUEST

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950

Commercial Office Space for Rent

The NMI Council for the Humanities is soliciting formal proposals from businesses or individuals who have commercial office space for rent on Saipan. The Council is seeking an office space on the ground floor with approximately 1,000 square feet of space.

Other requirements include:

- A. Common area maintenance
- B. Air Conditioning
- C. 24 hours water available
- D. Available for rent for two to five years, with option for renewal
- Trash Collection

The deadline to submit Proposal Packages are due on May 15, 2009 at 4:00pm. All Proposal Packages must be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan.

This announcement does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the Council in any way. The NMI Council for the Humanities is a private, non-profit organization affiliated with the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, please call us at 235-4785.

Chair, NMICH

/s/ Dr. Debra T. Cabrera /s/ Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero Executive Director, NMICH

Details sought in Saipan port lease proposal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is being urged to fully disclose the details of its lease proposal with a new investor that plans to pour \$100 million in fresh capital to the Port of Saipan.

In a letter to CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho Monday, local watchdog Taotao Tano CNMI Inc. asked the agency to hold a public hearing before a decision is made on the investment proposal of Allegiance Capital Corp.

The company earlier said it wants to lease the whole Lower Base area for its militaryrelated project.

'We may not agree on certain issues but we hope that a public hearing is called on this matter. Although the offer sounds interesting, we would like the full details," Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. told Camacho.

Cruz submitted an Open Government Act to obtain a copy of the lease proposal.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported the planned investment, which could potentially be the biggest investment in the history of the Port of Saipan.

Besides CPA's standing leases in the area, the investment plan would include the Power Plant 1 property.

Camacho, in his e-mail response to Taotao Tano, assured that CPA will exercise "caution" to make sure the public's concern is heard.

However, he said the agency has not made any decision yet on Allegiance Capital's proposal and is still evaluating all information it has so far received.

"CPA has as much questions about Allegiance Capital Corp. as anyone and will of course be asking them," Camacho added.

He said there is no leasehold document at this moment nor is one being developed.

On the possible relocation of Power Plant 1, Camacho said the identified property is outside CPA's jurisdiction. Negotiation with the power plant property must go through the Department of Public Lands.

Early this week, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial confirmed that the company is "willing" to pay for the power plant's relocation.

A 25-year lease agreement is reportedly being eyed for the new investment.

Stricter penalties for selling tobacco to minors eyed

By KRISTI EATON

Two local lawmakers want to increase the penalties establishments face for selling tobacco products to minors.

Rep. Ralph DLG Torres and Rep. Raymond D. Palacios authored House Bill 16-238, which increases the fines for each offense.

Under the proposed legislation, if a retailer is found to give, sell or permits to give or sell any tobacco product to someone under the age of 18, the establishment will be assessed a fine of \$1,000; imprisonment of not more than one year; and not more than 250 hours of community service for the first offense. Previously,

businesses received a warning letter for the first offense.

For a second offense, an establishment will incur a fine of \$2,000; imprisonment of not more than two years; and not more than 350 hours of community service. Under current law, businesses are fined a maximum of \$500 for a second offense.

The third offense under the bill would be increased from a seven-day license suspension to a one-year suspension of the business license; a fine of \$5,000; and imprisonment of not more than five years.

The tobacco fines and fees collected will continue to be deposited into an account with 90 percent of the money allotted to the Department of Commerce, Division of Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control for enforcement purposes. The remaining 10 percent collected will go into the general fund.

The lawmakers note in the bill that most teenagers who smoke report purchasing their own tobacco.

"Enforcement programs can greatly reduce these sales of tobacco to minors. Fines from penalties of violators should be utilized to fund the enforcement programs as to continue to reprimand and punish those that sell tobacco products to minors," the legislation states.

Also, many retailers continue to sell products to minors because the penalties under Public law 11-75 are not severe enough to stop businesses.



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BRUCE **L. M**AILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA **B. K**ARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer



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MVA joins Guangzhou International Travel Fair

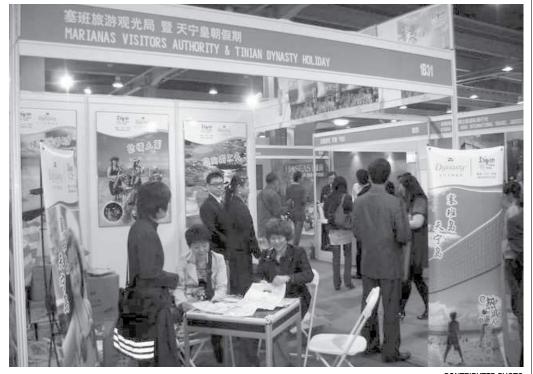
The Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Dynasty Holiday reach over 2,000 travel agents, airline and media representatives, and individual travelers who visit the Northern Marianas booth during the Guangzhou International Travel Fair on March 24-29, 2009.

As a key international travel fair in China, this year GITF attracted over 60,000 participants. Four hundred exhibitors from nearly 35 countries were represented this year in 16,000 square meters of exhibition space.

"China remains an important market for the vitality of NMI tourism, and the Guangzhou International Travel Fair is also one of the most relevant travel fairs for us in the Asia-Pacific region," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "China outbound tourism continues to grow, are we are very pleased to have the revival of the Guangzhou-Saipan charters on June 15, 2009."

To highlight the Northern Marianas, MVA and Tinian Dynasty Holiday hosted a reception dinner to share destination details with travel agents.

MVA and Tinian Dynasty Holiday have participated in the fair since 2002. In FY 2009, the Northern Marianas received 31,000 visitors from China. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Dynasty Holiday join the Guangzhou International Travel Fair on March 24-29, 2009.

Taotao Tano takes issue with Tinian homestead lot distribution

Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. wants the Department of Public Lands to disclose where it will get infrastructure funding for the hundreds of homestead lots to be distributed on

"Where did this infrastructure funding for Tinian come from? What account was it drawn from and how?" Cruz asked Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario.

DPL Tinian director earlier told Saipan Tribune that hundreds of lots will be distributed

"Mr. Del Rosario, you had stated on many occasions to the public that in order for DPL to secure and make homesteads available to Saipan residents, DPL needs approximately \$6 million for infrastructure such as water, power and sewer," said Cruz, who also sent a copy of the letter to the Office of the Public Auditor and the Legislature.

"Seven months to the general election and all of a sudden, millions in infrastructure funding appeared out of thin air and while the government is broke," Cruz added. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

SALARIES

From Page 1

151 teachers after having met teacher certification which includes Praxis exams," a PSS report obtained by the Saipan Tribune showed.

PSS also disclosed that on top of these, a maximum bonus of \$500 was given to teachers who

attended teacher trainings at the University of Guam and at their schools as well those who took the Praxis exams.

Upon showing proof that they took Praxis 1 and 2, PSS also provided \$300 incentive bonuses to qualified teachers.

The salary increase, Saipan Tribune learned, is given retroactively to the date of the completion of teacher certification requirements.

Based on the teachers' compensation plan, a minimum salary of \$27,000 is provided to teachers who have yet to pass any Praxis tests and grants up to \$47,000 in maximum annual wages depending on the qualifications, years of experience, and credentials of teachers.

The leadership team, headed by Education Commissioner Dr.

Rita A. Sablan, disclosed that, as of school year 2008-2009, over 66.6 percent—or 319—of PSS teachers now enjoy the benefit of salary increases after having met the teacher certification requirements.

Of the remaining full-time teachers, 34 percent—or 160 have not yet passed the Praxis 1

Sablan said during Thursday

night's board meeting at the Pacific Islands Club that, of the 66.6 percent HOT-compliant teachers, a big percentage comes from secondary schools.

"The 66 percent total comprises 79 percent of high school teachers; 51 percent of middle school teachers; and 60 percent of elementary school teachers," Sablan reported to the board.

Sablan claimed that the fig-

ures contradict the "concern" raised by a teachers association that the high school level may have lower HQT performers because of the "higher" Praxis 2 test scores set by the policy. Praxis 2 covers content areas or specialized subjects like math for the secondary schools.

The PSS and the board were earlier urged to restore the salaries of these 114 teachers.

PSS

From Page 1

consistent increase during the five-year period.

The report, issued in March but only distributed last week, showed that the 2004 school year had a turnover rate of 11 percent. This jumped to 15 percent the year after (2005) but was reduced and maintained at 11 percent in 2006. The turnover rate showed a marked improvement in 2007 when it dropped to 8 percent, before slightly going up to 9

percent the year after (2008).

PSS admitted that the system has not conducted an indepth analysis on the turnover rate, but cited that substantial research on teacher attrition indicates that teachers leave the profession based on "general reasons." These include teacher ability, pay scale, and non-monetary aspects of teaching.

The report on teacher turnover rate was disclosed following concerns raised by the Association of Commonwealth Teachers that the "fast" turnover rate at public schools was a result of the HQT standards and

requirements set by the Education Board. The association says the high rate of teachers leaving has a negative impact on student learning.

PSS disputes this, however, saying that student learning in public schools has been on the upswing after the implementation of the new teacher certification requirement, as reflected on the SAT-10:

- 2005—3rd grade, 37; 5th grade, 32; 6th grade, 30; 8th grade, 37; 9th grade, 32; and 11th grade, 33.
- 2006—3rd grade, 34; 5th grade, 34; 6th grade, 32; 8th

grade, 34; 9th grade, 34; and 11th grade, 36.

- 2007—3rd grade, 36; 5th grade, 40; 6th grade, 35; 8th grade, 35; 9th grade, 37; and 11th grade, 36.
- 2008—3rd grade, 41; 5th grade, 40; 6th grade, 42; 8th grade, 37; 9th grade, 40; and 11th grade, 43.

According to PSS and BOE, these test results reflect that in the past four years, there has been progressive growth in student academic achievement.

Comparing school years 2007 and 2008, student gains on the SAT-10 showed an average of 6.6 percentile growth, which exceeds the 5 percentile learning growth target.

'Highly qualified or highly effective?"

PSS identified four characteristics of teachers that are deemed important for student learning: high academic skills, teaching in the field in which they receive training, more than a few years of experience, and participation in high quality induction and professional development programs.

"The Praxis test series were developed by educators for

educators...they measure content specific tests, pedagogical tests, and basic skills," the report said.

Praxis I measures basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics while Praxis II measures knowledge of specific K-12 subjects.

PSS said that studies using national and state data sets have shown significant links between teacher education and licensure measures-including education coursework, credential status, and scores on licensure tests-and student achievement.

FUND

From Page 1

Public auditor Mike Pai is currently off island.

During yesterday's board of trustees meeting, Fund administrator Mark Aguon and internal auditor Esther Ada said OPA could not complete the audits because of lack of auditors.

Since last year, OPA lost so many of its employees that the agency had to announce 11 vacancies all at once, including four audit managers, three senior auditors, two audit supervisors and two audit managers.

Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero said they requested a management audit as well as an audit of pension computations that could also pinpoint double dipping, 15 to 17 months ago.

"OPA said they lack staff and they have other priorities. That's why we're wondering about this 1 percent [contribution]. We're paying 1 percent annually," he told Saipan Tribune in an interview during a break in the board

He said the Fund is asking to

waive the 1 percent mandatory contribution because OPA could not do its audit jobs.

"We're not talking about financial audits; we're just talking about audits that OPA should be doing. If they can't do it because of lack of staffing, then they should at least waive [our] financial responsibility," Guer-

Board vice chair Pedro Q. Dela Cruz asked counsel Viola Alepuyo about the consequences to the Fund if it stops contributing 1 percent of its budget to OPA. The board

went into executive session to discuss the OPA contribution, among other things.

Constitutional and statutory provisions guarantee funding for OPA. Under the law, OPA receives 1 percent of all local appropriations and is authorized to receive 1 percent of the operations budgets of all public corporations and autonomous agencies.

Double dipping

Guerrero said one of the audits will help the Fund identify cases of double dipping.

"Some of these costs may

exceed \$300,000 to \$400,000," he said.

Guerrero said OPA was in the process of working on the audit when former public auditor resigned in July 2008, and other staffers also left the office.

But OPA's Zapanta said they recommended the Fund hire at least two internal auditors to audit the pension computation, which will also lead to identifying double dippers.

The Fund hired Esther Ada who, according to Guerrero, has started working on identifying double dippers.

"We've been receiving a lot of leads in which certain retirees were rehired, and currently working, and we're just trying to ensure we're doing our job. ...Eventually, if the board determines, after the reports were received, that they are in violation, we will pursue to recover whatever is owed through double dipping, and some of these costs may exceed \$300,000 to \$400,000," he said.

Double dipping refers to the receipt of retirement benefits and an employment salary at the same time.

INOS

From Page 1

cant after Timothy P. Villagomez resigned from the office over the weekend, after he was found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

It has been decided that Inos must meet the same requirements as other Senate appointments. He must disclose his financial background and submit to a drug test, Reyes said.

The Senate president earlier said he fully supports Inos as lieutenant governor.

Asked why he supports the

Finance secretary to fill the position of lieutenant governor, Reves said:

"Eloy is a jack of all trades. Eloy is a person that repairs any damages. He's the person that fixes everything that goes wrong.

Also, Reyes said, Inos is running as lieutenant governor

with Fitial in November's election. By confirming Inos, the Senate is showing its respect that he is the natural choice for the appointment.

Fitial, in his appointment letter, said he believes Inos will do well as the next lieutenant governor of the CNMI.

"I am confident that Mr. Inos,

with his many years of service in the Commonwealth government, will be an asset to my administration and serve ably on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth," the governor wrote. "I respectfully request your prompt and favorable action on this appointment."

If and when the Senate con-

firms Inos as the new lieutenant governor, Fitial will make a new appointment to the position of Finance secretary, said Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office.

The matter is currently being discussed, but there is still some time to address the issue until Inos is confirmed, he said.

Reyes hopes court will be lenient on Villagomez

Bv KRISTI EATON

Senate President Pete Reves said he hopes the court will be lenient when former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez is sentenced for several federal charges in July.

Reves, who noted he never attended the trial, said his heart goes out to Villagomez and his family.

"I know how painful that is," he said. "I was hoping the court, and I'm still hoping because the sentence has not been handed down, I'm hoping when the sentencing time comes around the court will recognize the fact he has children and be lenient."

However, Villagomez's children are not the only reason why Reyes thinks the former lieutenant governor should get leniency, he said.

"I think he's very remorseful," the Senate president said. "Like anyone else under the same circumstances, they have enough suffering. The disgrace of being the highest-ranking CNMI [official] that is convicted is torture enough, I think. But I also believe, like the governor, in the system of the courts. And it's going to be fair."

Last Friday, a federal jury found Villagomez, his brotherin-law James A. Santos, and his sister Joaquina V. Santos guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Villagomez resigned from the Office of Lieutenant Governor over the weekend.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the sentencing for July 28, 2009. After the sentencing, the defendants will have 10 days to file a notice of appeal.

The jurors found Villagomez and James Santos guilty of conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Joaquina Santos was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, aiding and abetting to commit theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

wire fraud is 20 years in prison, while the other counts range from five to 10 years.

Munson allowed the defendants to remain free pending their sentencing.

CNMI impact

Reves said Villagomez's conviction would change the CNMI forever.

"It's going to put on notice a lot of elected officials, not just the governor or lieutenant governor, any elected official on notice, that it is no longer business as usual,"

The maximum penalty for he said. "They have a responsibility to the public and their constituents, and they have to take that responsibility seriously."

At a press conference on Friday, U.S. Attorney Leonardo Rapadas said the guilty verdict is a very important case not only for the U.S. Attorney District, but for the United States as well.

"Government corruption has always been high on the priority list for the Department of Justice. And it is sad to see that in small areas like CNMI we have government corruption that has reached into the highest levels," he said.

Former company director sues wife-employer for wrongful termination

A former director, who also served as vice president of Woo Jung Corp., sued the company and its president, who happens to be his wife, after he was illegally dismissed from the company.

He also alleged that he was not paid during the duration of his employment with the firm.

Seung Ho Shin, a Korean, filed the suit on April 16 and was represented in court by Torres Brothers, LLC.

Named defendants in the case were Woo Jung Corp., Kim Eun Hee, and Sang Jee Rent-A-Car.

Documentsfiledincourtshowed that Seung Ho Shin married Kim Eun Hee in October 2007. The couple moved to Saipan in May 2008 and invested on a business, the Sang Jee Rent a Car.

Seung Ho Shin made a total investment of \$100,000 while Kim Eun Hee infused \$200,000 to the business

The couple stayed for three months on Saipan between May 2008 through November of last year.

Seung Ho Shin said he managed the business without availing a single day vacation and had worked on a 24-hour schedule, ready to answer and assist the company's clients.

However, he said he was totally surprised when he received a notice of dismissal from the company, relieving him as one of its directors.

The plaintiff said he was wrongfully terminated and was not provided any payment for managing the business.

He claimed that the resolution executed by the defendant in dismissing him from his job has no basis because there was no established articles of incorporation that shows that Kim Eun Hee has the authority to remove him. Kim Eun Hee serves as the company's president.

The plaintiff claimed that the articles of incorporation of Woo Jung Corp., dba San Jee Rent A Car, does not reflect the name of Kim Eun Hee as one of the company's incorporators nor a shareholder of the corporation.

The plaintiff believes that, with the absence this document, Kim Eun Hee has no authority to remove him from work.

The case document also

showed that Seung Ho Shin is entitled to \$25 an hour for his services and \$37.50 an hour on top time pay amounts to \$58,375.

of the 30 regular work hours. The plaintiff's unpaid wages and over-

wrongful termination; prejudgment and post-judgment inter-

He also asked \$50,000 for ests at 12 percent annually; as well as attorney's fees and costs of the suit. (Moneth Deposa)





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Dekada says it intends to join May Day rally

The Dekada Movement will be joining the "May Day" rally on May 1 and is calling on all workers in the Commonwealth—local and foreign alike—to unite and join in this celebration and call to action.

The rally will start at Fish-

Church in Garapan at 6pm on Friday and proceed to the American Memorial Park's amphitheater.

"The business community and general public should also join this effort because they

ing Base across the Kristo Rai have common interests and the Workers Day" observed on May economic future of the CNMI depends on capitalizing on those common interests," according to Dekada president Boni Sagana in a statement issued yesterday.

"May Day" is "International

1 each year and is recognized in most countries, although not in the United States, even though the May Day movement began in the United States. It is a day for worker solidarity and to organize for action on vital issues of importance to ordinary people.

Sagana said the 180-day delay in the implementation of federal immigration control in the CNMI has both good and bad points. He said Dekada did not oppose the extension because the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the CNMI political leadership had all failed to prepare properly for the transition to U.S. immigration. Sagana says workers now need to take a more active role. "We cannot simply wait to see what gets put in the regulations. We may wait forever and then not like whatever happens to us."

He also questioned provisions of U.S. Public Law 110-229 that simply call for "consultation" with the CNMI governor. "Why only the governor, and why only consultation?" he asks. He pointed out that foreign workers have no say in who is elected governor of the CNMI, and that federal law even prohibits aliens from advancing their views by making donations to political campaigns.

Sagana cites exclusion of Russian and Chinese tourists from the visa waiver program as an example of why the delay in implementation was a "necessary evil" and of the federal government's insensitivity not only to the needs of the CNMI but to the expressed intent of Congress in enacting U.S. Public Law 110-229 that it not be economically damaging to the CNMI.

The complete absence of a defined framework for implementation of the transition was another reason delay was unavoidable. On the other hand, every day of delay in making sible," he said. (PR)

the transition is another day delaying the economic recovery of the CNMI, he said. "Our economy cannot move forward while this is hanging in the air."

Delay, according to Sagana, also means the perpetuations of injustice and the continuation of a dysfunctional system that actually is in no one's interest. Sagana says the CNMI labor and immigration system artificially divides local and alien labor. By setting worker interests against each other, the system increase the political power of business interests and diminishes that of working people, local and foreign alike.

"Ultimately this flawed system disserves business and the economy as well, by increasing costs and imposing a hidebound bureaucratic system that impedes the free flow of labor, throwing up obstacles between employer and worker, impairing freedom of contract, and undermining efficiency and adaptability to market conditions," Sagana said, adding the CNMI needs to stabilize its existing foreign workforce, protect families and children, provide equality of treatment of local and foreign workers, and thereby provide benefits to business and workers alike.

Dekada's participation in the "May Day" rally is intended to help lay a foundation for rebuilding the CNMI economy, Sagana said.

"Congress needs to amend U.S. Public Law 110-229," he said, "and we need to tell them exactly how.'

Workers also should have a "place at the table" and active participation in the process of development and drafting the transition regulations, not merely an opportunity to comment after it is all done.

"Morally, the U.S. government ought to make this pos-



The House of Representatives SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

\$88.80/night

\$99.90/night

\$133.30/night

\$144.30/night

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Mountain View

Ocean View

One day car rental

One day car rental

FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Date: April 27, 2009

Century 🍑

Travel

A TanHoldings Company

Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes Telephone: (670) 664-8836 Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism would like to solicit comments from the general public on Senate Bill 16-27 SS1, HS1 "To require all Contractors to be licensed in the CNMI; and for other purposes".

Copies of the legislation may be obtained from the following

- 1. Request to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes
- 2. It may be viewed at www.camachocnmi.com under Legislative Bills, S.B. 16-27 SS1, HS1
- 3. Request for digital copy via email to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com

Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written testimony on or before April 30, 2009. To submit written testimony, please drop-off or fax to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes (664-8838) or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950. You can also submit your digital copies to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com.

For additional information, you may contact the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes.

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes Chairman



services to the public, our office will be implementing an adjusted schedule of office operation on the following dates:

- April 29th , April 30th, and May 1st , 2009 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday): Office doors will be closed for permit processing
- May 4th thru May 8th, 2009 7:30am to 12:00pm - Office doors will open for 12:00pm to 4:30pm - Office doors will close for processing

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Zoning Staff & Management

Zoning Board is ready to name new administrator

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Zoning Board chair Henry S. Hofschneider said yesterday a new zoning administrator will be named during the board's May 7 meeting.

All six applicants for the position left vacant by Steve Tilley are from the U.S. mainland. The board narrowed down the list to three.

"The board will meet at its regular monthly meeting on May 7, and a selection will be made at that time. A name will be available after the board has discussed on a candidate at the May 7 meeting," said Hofschneider, who is also the special assistant to the secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Candidates for the post are required to meet the minimum requirements including a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a

related field, and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning, or land use administration.

The maximum annual salary is \$50,000. Health and retirement benefits are also provided.

The zoning administrator manages the Zoning Office. which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, and interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law.

The office is also responsible for educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications.

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on Feb. 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed almost 3,000 inquiries and zoning permits.



TV, Blu-Ray player won in Joeten's 'Mega Giveaway'

Joeten kicked off its Mega Giveaways Raffle for its 60th Anniversary last Saturday, April 23, 2009, by giving away a Sony 40 inch LCD TV and Sony Blu-Ray player.

The lucky winner, Elmer Ocampo, an electrician, said that he got his lucky ticket at Ace Hardware Susupe.

"I was hesitant to even fill out the raffle ticket because I was in a rush, but I said to myself, 'Why not? What do I have to lose'?" Ocampo said. "I really hope I can win the Nissan Versa."

Joeten is celebrating its 60th Anniversary by giving away big ticket items like the Sony LCD TV in April, Yamaha ATV in May, and the Nissan Versa in June as the Grand Prize. (PR)

In picture, from left, are Doug Hason, Ace Susupe Manager; Ocampo's daughter, Elmer Ocampo, Joeten board member Clarence Tenorio, JCT head buyer JJ Tenorio, JCT general manager Darlene Macaranas, model/cashier Brittany Palacios, and Joeten marketing manager Bo Palacios.

Taste of the Marianas gets cookin'!

Island delicacies and international dishes are the main course at this year's "Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden." Island hotels, restaurants and other food vendors will serve up their best choices during the May Tourism Month public extravaganza.

Visitors and residents alike are expected in droves for five consecutive Saturdays evenings of food, fun and festivities. The annual Taste of the Marianas, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday in May at American Memorial Park in Saipan

"The Taste of the Marianas is our way of welcoming visitors and saying thanks to the local community for their support of tourism," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's also an excellent venue for local hotels to share their menu with a broader audience. Honestly, it's a great way to show off some of the best the Northern Marianas' offer as an island destination, both in services, hospitality, and island spirit."

Live entertainment will be provided throughout the night. The lineup for May 2, 2009, will be:

- 6pmNational Anthem by Nicollette Lopez
- 6:30pm 7:30pmTropikool Blendz Band
- 7:30pm 8:30pmInatuas Cultural Dancers
- 8:30pm 9:30pmWelippal Cultural Dancers
- 9:30pm 10pmParker Yamazaki Yobei

Participating food vendors are Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Canton Restaurant, Saipan World

Capricciosa & Tony Roma's, Modern Bakery, Hula Girl/3's, Restaurant, and Ty & Tia. Beer

Resort, Sierra Pearl Shakes, D'Elegance Café, Herman's Thai House Restaurant, Poon's garden vendors will be Pacific and Northern Marianas Bar-

Trading Company, MARPAC

tender Association. (MVA)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wellness Family Fun Fair on Saturday

The 2nd Annual Wellness Family Fun Fair will be held this Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the Minachom Atdau Pavilion on Kilili Beach, from 6am to noon.

Activities include:

- Walk-A-Thon that begins at 6:30am. Free t-shirt to the first 200 people. Registration starts at 6am.
- Tai Chi demonstration by Barry Wicksman at 8:30am. Everyone is encouraged to participate and experience the health benefits of Tai Chi!
- Music by Ellena Sutton chacha/reg-
- gae. Join the chacha contest. ■ A Commonwealthwide essay contest
- Paddling. Cheer on the high school paddlers at the season's opening race, then try to paddle or just enjoy a canoe ride, compliments of Fatuul Outrigger Canoe Club and Mt. Carmel High School Team.
 - Many other activities and prizes.

This event is sponsored by the CAMI-CNMI, Mental Health Planning Council, NMPASI, Community Guidance Center, and Statewide Independent Living Council. (PR)

Live fire releases on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on May 5, 2009, from 10am to 2pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the Emergency Management Office Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

PAWS meeting tomorrow

On Thursday, April 30, PAWS is having a no-host meeting at Coffee Care in Garapan. The meeting is open to open to the public. All those interested in volunteering for PAWS and saving the non-profit organization are encouraged to attend the meeting. Please RSVP to Bobbi Grizzard no later than April 29th at to bgrizzard@saipan.com or call 483-9464. Alternatively, you may contact 285-PAWS. (PR)

Saipan Cockfight **Board sets meeting**

There will be a special meeting for the Saipan Cockfight Board on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at 9am, at the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Antonio, below the Department of Labor at Afetnas Square. The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the new proposed rules and regulations of the Saipan cockfight game and to conduct a protest hearing brought before the board. All board members and the public are invited to attend this important meeting. (PR)

Top Pool Bar open 8-ball tournament

Attention top pool shooters: You are all invited to an open 8-ball tournament every Saturday at Top Pool Bar. Entrance fee will be \$10. Double elimination format will be applied with a maximum of 16 players. BCA rules will be used. Free practice between 7pm-8pm. A standard 9 1/2 table with new carpet will be used. Giveaways will be given throughout the tournament by Budweiser. Come down and test your skills against the island's best. For further inquiries and reservation, contact Zheng at 287-7676. (PR)

Puengin Inetnon resumes next Friday

Puengin Inetnon will resume again starting on Friday, May 8, at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. It will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail. com for more info. (PR)

Kagman Flea Market next Saturday

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume again starting on Saturday, May 9 at 8am at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only \$5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. (PR)



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

ITB NO.: ITB09-DPL-076

Submission/Opening Date: May 15, 2009 • Time: 9:30 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS – ROTA BRANCH"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

The lessor must comply with CNMI Public Law 15-23. Article 5. Section 8652.



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



IVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB09-TD0F-084

Submission/Opening Date: May 15, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – TINIAN BRANCH"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

The lessor must comply with CNMI Public Law 15-23, Article 5, Section 8652.

/s/ THEODOSIA K. SANCHEZ RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEA DEPT. OF FINANCE, TINIAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



TO BID INVITATION

ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-075 (A-D) Submission/Opening Date: May 08, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2)COMPUTER SYSTEMS & ACCESSORIES, TWO (2) COLOR PRINTERS, TWO (2) COPIER MACHINES & TWO (2) FAX MACHINES (ONE OF EACH CIF – ROTA AND TINIAN) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – ROTA & TINIAN POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if

/s/ SANTIAGO F TUDELA COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ JOHN S. DEL ROSARIO, JR.

SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S





INVITATION TO

ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-074

Submission/Opening Date: May 08, 2009 • Time: 9:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) COMPUTER NOTEBOOKS AND HARDWARE ACCESSORIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION, SAIPAN"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REP09-RHC-080 Submission: May 18, 2009 • Time: 2:00 p.m

"MANPOWER SERVICES FOR THE ROTA HEALTH CENTER" Copies of the Scope of Services may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and

Supply in Lower Base during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 04, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, Songsong Village, Rota.

Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Julian S. Calvo. RDH - Rota Health by fax to (670) 532-0955 or by e-mail to rhcadmin@pticom.com no later than May 07, 2009,

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

/s/ JOSEPH S. INOS Mayor of Rota

Director, P&S

INVITATION TO

Procurement And Supply

CNMI Government

ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-077 Submission/Opening Date: May 08, 2009 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUI MOBILE TRAILER – CIF ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - ROTA POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION'

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



April 29, 1999

JAL upbeat on tourist arrivals

Japan Airlines has vowed to bring in more tourists to the Northern Marianas after the Commonwealth Ports Authority decided to provide incentives to various carriers to increase arrivals. The CPA board approved a 50 percent cut in departure and arrival fees effective Mary 1, 1999 through February 29, 2000 to airlines that can provide an additional 15 percent increase in the average number of passengers that they bring in to the CNMI. "We are happy with the incentives and hopefully, it will help us bring in more passengers," a JAL official said. Any savings during the period may be used by the airline to promote the Northern Marianas in Japan.

Why is Rep. Franks supporting Clinton's tax agenda?

Rep. Bob Franks (R-NJ) has joined the leading Democrat Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) to co-sponsor President's Clinton's proposed \$187 million per year tariff on textiles and apparel products shipped to the mainland U.S. from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Tribune has learned. Tariffs are taxes and they are bad enough in any form. They are paid by American consumers in higher prices. But the tariff Franks is supporting is particularly egregious because CNMI is part of the United States. It is an official territory of the U.S., like the western area of the U.S. was before it was divided into states. The 28,000 permanent residents of CNMI are full citizens of the U.S., and the Constitution rules there as ultimate law. So the Franks tariff is like imposing a tariff on goods madein New Jersey and shipped to New York. What will Clinton think ofnext, a tariff on states with two Republican Senators?

April 29, 2002

Suspected bank fraud scheme foiled

A businessman and a former bank CEO were indicted Friday before the US District Court on allegations that both defendants, with two other co-conspirators, schemed to defraud approximately \$6.6 million from the Bank of Saipan from December 2001 to February 2002. The federal grand jury indictment leveled against Bert Douglas Montgomery, 63, former BoS Board Chair Tomas B. Aldan, 56, Dusean Berkich and Michael T. Wilson, alleged that the four plotted to fraudulently obtain control of the local banking institution by making false representations, among others. One such misrepresentation, according to the indictment charges, portrayed Montgomery as a wealthy and experienced businessman who had the financial means to buy the majority of the bank's stock.

BoS assures security of bank deposits

The \$6.6 million fraud case allegedly perpetrated by white-collar professionals against the Bank of Saipan will not deter the local banking institution from carrying out its mission, the BoS management assured last week. This, as major shareholders also vouched for the security of the bank's deposits. "When this matter first came to light, the bank took immediate and appropriate action to insure the security of the bank's deposits," the BoS said. For one, the bank said it has terminated all actions by those involved in the multicount indictment. Further, the bank has also initiated an exhaustive review of the bank's financial portfolio, as well as, and installed a new president and Chief Executive Officer, Ben R. Fitial.

April 29, 2003

CRMO beefs up manpower

CRMO Administrator Joaquin D. Salas yesterday disclosed that he is tapping the services of a Washington-based executive to fill the position of deputy director, which has been vacant for more than four months. The CRMO is now processing the employment document of Steve Willey. Once completed, he will be the second highest official in the agency. Salas said Tilley has background in coastal management. Tilley would replace Kerry P. Pate, who relinquished the position last December.

Miss Teen buckles down to hard work

Miss Teen CNMI winners disclosed plans to work closely with the Marianas Visitors Authority in promoting the Northern Marianas as a safe destination for tourists. Barely a month after being crowned Miss Teen CNMI, 17-year-old Remylyn Julene Guerrero believes that her duties transcend the pomp and glamour of her title, saying that she's prepared to do more than just parading with her crown and sash. Guerrero, Miss Teen CNMI First Runner-Up Carmine Patrice Jack Babauta, and Second Runner-Up Jocelyn Nicole Palacios are buckling down to take their roles as ambassadors of the Commonwealth's youths.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009 9



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Pasta Select SALE 99¢	Dragon Brand Vegetable Oil SALE 7.99 1Gal.	Seoksu Water 500 ml. SALE \$5.99/case	Sunkist All Flavors SALE \$5.95/case	Wilkins Water 4,000 ml. SALE \$1.99/ea	Lipton Iced Tea 38 grt. SALE \$5.95	Zest-0 Juice All Flavors SALE \$1.95
Morton Salt SALE CORTO	Vlassic Dill Pickles \$6.99 Whole \$5.95 Whole	\$5.99	Jin Kore Sauce 1. SALE \$2.9	8 Ltr. Bas 450	nchee Ge Gue 4.95	Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken and Meat Ball) SALE \$1.49 /15 oz.
Bounty Basic 8 Rolls SALE \$7.95	Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls SALE \$3.95		ntle Jubilee 24 Rolls SALE \$8.9	Tissue Kor Tiss	ean Facial sue 3 Packs ALE <	Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls SALE \$3.99
Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes	Gain Liquid Detergent	Suavitel 850 ml.		Diapers Joy	Dishwashing uid 90 oz.	Safeguard Bar Soap

Chopped Ham SALE \$9.99/5 lbs. \$17.99/10 lbs.	SALE \$10.99/cs.	Beef Rib Finger SALE \$2.99/lb.	Ground Pork SALE \$16.99/10 lbs	Ground Beef SALE \$15.99/10 lb	Hoffy Sausage 44 02. Caroled Bausage SALE \$6.99/pkg.
Pork Butt Slab Only SALE \$1.79/lb.	1	ily Ba <i>ecial</i>	SALE \$1.9	9/4 pcs. \$2	ACCUPATION OF THE PARTY OF THE
Miller Sausage	Pork Hocks Pork Belly Pork Adobo.	\$8. \$10	95 0.95 95 \$1.0	5 /pkg.	SALE 6.95/3 lb.
\$14.99/pkd Hoffy Portuguese Sausage	g. Pork Chops Beef Stew Beef Backrib Beef Shortril	\$13 \$13 \$\$8. \$5\$15	95 95 1.95 SALE \$9.9 San Ped	9/5 lbs. \$ ro Calamari Se	SALE < 17.99/cs. awave Calamari
SALE \$1.99/pkg.		ken \$5. \$5. Milk Fish Belly		S	SALE 1.79/1 lb.

SALE < \$3.95	SALE \$8.99	\$ALE \$8.99	SALE \$4.50	SALE \$3.99	SALE \$4.59	SALE < \$3.59	SALE \$1.49 /pkg.	SALE \$5.95/box		ALE < 1.99/lb.
Gain Liquid Detergent SALE \$4.99	Suavitel 850 ml. SALE \$1.59	Adult Diapers SALE \$7.95	Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. SALE \$5.99	Safeguard Bar Soap SALE 59¢/each	Potato (Jumbo	SAL	ge M	Gala/Fiji Apple	SALE	
Clorox 96 oz. SALE \$2.99	Cream Silk Conditioner SALE \$1.99	White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. 2 for \$2.95	Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. SALE \$6.95	Butane Gas SALE \$21.99/GARRt 2	79¢/lb. Red Onion SALE 99¢/lb.	Onion SALL 590	E ()	\$3.99/pkg. Garlic SALE 89¢/pack-4 p	U.S. Eggs Extra Large SALE	1000

Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Swine flu has the world on alert

on't panic. The declaration of a national emergency by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in response to the growing number of swine flu cases was a legalistic maneuver that allows local authorities access to federal aid. But Americans would do well to keep themselves informed and take common-sense precautions to limit their potential exposure to this new infectious strain.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and the governments of Mexico and Canada are working together to understand the nature of the swine influenza A/H1N1 virus and how and where it's being spread. While much remains unknown about the virus, here's what the CDC does know: This strain of swine flu is being spread from human to human. Symptoms include high fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, vomiting and diarrhea. Only those who are seriously ill should get medical attention right away. The drugs Tamiflu and Relenza have been effective in treating those with H1N1. Treatment is most effective if done within 48 hours of exposure. The CDC suggests frequent hand washing; covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth; and staying home from work or school if you become ill. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers such as Purell are effective. There is no need for a face mask now.

This fast-moving health scare roared to life in Mexico around April 12, when a woman died of severe viral pneumonia. So far, more than 80 people there have died, and more than 1,300 have been afflicted. As of Sunday afternoon, there were 20 confirmed "mild" cases in the United States, with eight in New York City, seven in California, two in Kansas, two in Texas and one in Ohio. The patients range in age from 7 to 54. In a call with reporters, Anne Schuchat of the CDC announced that all 20 patients have recovered.

U.S. health authorities appear to have been slow to learn what was happening in Mexico. The CDC was informed by Mexican health authorities on Thursday that the cases in California were related to those in their country. The United States is not screening travelers at airports, and the Obama administration has no plans to institute the extraordinary measures taken by Mexico, which banned large public gatherings. Because the situation varies from state to state, the CDC urges everyone to consult their local governments' Web sites for up-to-date information. Updated national information from the CDC is available at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Saipan then and now

Post-war island economic history in a nutshell

Third of a four-part series

Saipan before Commonwealth status and the economic 'boom'

efore the island's association with the United States and for a long period following Saipan and Tinian's devastation as a result of the war, the Northern Marianas were remote and largely isolated during which time there was no economy worthy of the term.

In the days before jets, the trip to Saipan required many mindnumbing hours. Including ground time for refueling, the flight from San Francisco to Honolulu took 9 1/2 hours; from Hawaii to Wake Island, another 9 1/2 hours; from Wake to Saipan, 8 more hours. Imagine that! Today there is no place on the globe that can't be reached in a much shorter period of time and in greater comfort.

Aside from the geographic isolation there were other reasons for the economic isolation. It was the period at the height of the Cold War. In the '50s the CIA had closed off Saipan for use as a covert training base. The United States discouraged foreign investment by exercising the restrictive United Nation's "favored nation clause," which effectively prohibited any foreign investment on the islands. It was necessary to keep the covert training base a secret.

In 1962 the CIA closed its secret training complex and soon thereafter Saipan became the Trust Territory Government's administrative center for managing the affairs of 2,100 islands spread over 3 million square miles of the western Pacific.

Even after the CIA facility was closed the restrictive foreign investment policy remained in place as an obstacle to some types of development until rescinded in 1973. The effort to remove this constraint was a direct result of the vision and work of David M. Sablan.

Those were the days when the islands were still largely devoid of many of the amenities of the mid-20th century, amenities that one would normally associate with a developed economy. In fact, there was no economy worthy of the name until around the mid-80s and the introduction of the garment industry and the beginning of a fledging tourism sector.

It was a time when one reached the islands from the United States either on a PanAm Boeing 707, or on TransWorld Airlines flight #1 en route around the world, which landed in Guam for a short fuel stop before proceeding with its military passengers to battlefields of Vietnam then on to Bangkok and points west as the jet raced to catch the sun.

To get to Saipan from Guam one transferred to an ancient fourengine, 84 seat DC6, which flew with its onboard mechanic and a bunch of spare parts for a 45-minute flight to Saipan's brush-lined, unlighted, coral airstrip at Saipan International at the southern end By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

of the island.

Saipan's airstrip had no control tower and a flyby was necessary to check the wind direction and scare away any stray dogs or cattle that might have wandered onto the weed infested landing path of World War II's Kobler field situated at the southern tip of the island.

Disembarking from the aircraft one entered a small, dilapidated, sun-bleached, corrugated tin structure without doors and without glass in open air windows furnished with several roughly hewn wooden benches.

In those days before U.S. grant in aid for road improvement and surfacing, Saipan's roads were largely pot-holed and were either choked with coral dust during dry periods or deep, water filled, bone shattering, axle breaking craters that had remained unimproved since the U.S. military left years before.

The Townhouse market (later Payless) was situated in a quonset hut. There were only two hotels—the Hafa Adai consisting of 10 plywood bungalows, each a little larger than a shipping container, and the 56-room Royal Taga Hotel (where the Saipan World Resort now stands). In those days long distance calls could not be made from one's residence; overseas telephone calls had to be placed from an RCA booth in Susupe.

There were no recreational craft in the lagoon save one, a glass-bottomed boat operated by Tetsuo, a Palauan.

Middle Road was almost entirely undeveloped. It was another pot-holed, two-lane, dusty road with hardly a business on either side. The maximum speed possible was about 20 - 25 mph. It is amazing what a paved road can do to encourage investment and development along both sides of its length.

To even think of a tourism-based economy was a dream of only a few as the Japanese could only convert yen in an amount equivalent to \$743. This amount was hardly sufficient to develop a tourism sector of any size even in view of a low price structure. A round-trip ticket to Guam purchased at the Pan American Airline office, or from Continental Air Micronesia, was \$28. Those were the days when there was only one flight a day and one cargo ship a month.

See SAIPAN on Next Page



The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Jamaican Saipanpreneur in China!

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

'm right now, at this moment sitting in a hotel room in WuXi, China, after being in Shanghai, Suzhou, and Hangzhou, and I have absolutely no idea what to share with you for this Saipanpreneur column! I have been and continue to be busy keeping a group of friends and relatives updated by e-mail on my day-to-day exploits here in China, and of course, living the exploits themselves. I keep thinking, though, that I could share some of the insights and observations I've made since being here, but I'm not sure how helpful that might be.

I brake for...

On Saipan, we always joke about the factory girls walking so close to the edge of the roads risking bodily injury here on the island. But after seeing and experiencing the never-ending, fluidly intertwining mix of people, bicycles, mopeds, taxis, buses and general vehicular traffic vying for the right of way—where right of way and who goes first may be determined by (and I haven't quite figured it out yet) a combination of who is bigger, who is faster, whose horn is louder, what day of the month it is, or what color your car is—and where everyone is making forward progress ignoring traffic lights and signs, homs blaring, whizzing by within inches (or less) of each other, and where mopeds and pedestrians share the sidewalk, I now realize that sidewalks and roads don't represent exactly the same thing as we here, by U.S. standards, might think they do. Yes, I'd love to share that insight with you, but, this isn't a Traffic & Transit column.

The price is....

Prices here are as fluid and ever-changing as the traffic. The price of just about anything you endeavor to purchase (especially if you're an obvious tourist) will vary, depending on how gullible they think you are, or how gullible you actually are. I mean everything!

The name of the game here seems to be "Take him for all he's got. He doesn't know, he's a tourist, for Buddha's sake!"

On my first night I walked into a little shop to purchase a bottle of water. Storekeeper told me 2RMB (Ren Min Bi, the currency of the People's Republic of China). Now I know enough to know it should be no more than 1RMB, or perhaps I was simply sensing intuitively that "the game" was on, stepped out, called my translator in and had her ask the price. Caught in the act, the owner shyly admitted it was 1.50RMB. We all laughed at his obvious attempt to play and win the game.

Yesterday, I walked into a store to get a bag of cashews (7.50 RMB) and a bag of dried fruit (12.00) with prices plainly written on the items. The shop cashier/owner punched in the prices in a calculator (she didn't use the scanner like she did the night before), turned the small screen toward me indicating that my bill was 10.30.

Ahem. Now, I may not speak Mandarin, lady, but I went to school to be a civil engineer. We covered basic addition. First day. Heck, I can even do that one in my head. I took the calculator, silently punched in the numbers myself, turned the small screen back toward her showing her I would be paying 19.50 RMB. She waved her hand in disdain, took the 20RMB bill, gave me my .50 RMB change—all this in a wordless exchange of calculator buttons, bills and screen displays. Fun stuff!

Yes, I'd love to share that experience with you, but, this isn't a Chinese Shopping Tips column.

Home is where...

You know, it's interesting that many of us on Saipan would never

SAIPAN

From Page 10

The population of Saipan, Tinian and Rota combined was 12,256, including the employees of the Trust Territory Government, the islands' major employer.

The purchasing power of the dollar at the time would be equal to about 18 cents today. The 2,376 registered vehicle owners, including those of the Trust Territory and Marianas District governments, purchased gasoline for 38 cents a gallon; rice was 13 cents per pound. There were 55 businesses in the Northern Marianas employing 673 people. The total annual government revenue was only \$433,334 and the islands' exports amounted to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Walt Goodridge is as happy as a clam—or a smiling Buddha—in this visit to a garden in China

imagine that the Chinese girls we see working in the factories and living in decrepit single-room barracks are often actually from huge, modern cities that outpace Los Angeles and outspend Fifth Avenue. As China continues to elevate itself economically, the lure of the then 8-to-1 (now 6.75-to-1) RMB-to-US dollar exchange rate becomes less of a draw. The lifestyle the workers are willing to endure to earn the better exchange rate often bears little resemblance to where they hail from. Yes, I'd love to share the eye-opening insights into life and lifestyles in China, but this isn't a Lifestyles Column.

Jamaican in China...

Perhaps I could share with you the attraction, attention, curiosity, entertainment value, social prop and dating aid of being of African descent and darker-hued in China! Heads turn, jaws drop, eyes widen, gasps are uttered (yes, I actually heard a gasp—I thought those only happened in comic books—while at the Administrator's Garden, a tourist spot in Suzhou). Cameras click, people stop what they are doing, look, ogle, point, and then move on, smiling and talking, having had a little distraction from years of seeing only Chinese features and flesh day after day.

Practically every single person turns to look. Shanghai. Suzhou. Hangzhou. Wu Xi. "It don't matter!"

Some will say "Hallo" and engage in small talk to practice their English. Some will reach out and actually touch you as they walk by.

Others will ask where you are from. Some will want to take photos. IT.....DOES.....NOT.....STOP.

The attention is constant. You are always being observed. Want to pick your nose? Be careful, somebody's watching. Want to scratch your, um...? Forget it, somebody's watching.

Struggling to eat with chopsticks? Well, you've just entertained the ENTIRE restaurant, the wait staff, and, more than likely, the strangers outside walking by who've stopped, yes, I said stopped, unreservedly, to look, make that to stare.

Oh, and speaking of being Jamaican, most people here now know about Jamaica's Usain Bolt and his Beijing Olympic accomplishments. So, being Jamaican adds another level to

a meager \$254,635. There was no private sector economy worth mentioning, no tourism, no garment factories, only government jobs for the most part.

Personal computers, fax machines and the Internet were unheard of and slide rules were still widely used. Doctor Torres hospital was located where the college is today. Capital Hill Housing built by the CIA was considered by some to be among the best on the island. The single Duty Free Store was housed in the Royal Taga Hotel and was no larger than a row of telephone booths and 10 people in the shop made a crowd. The number of island restaurants could be counted on one hand.

There was very little money available on Saipan at the time. Nor was there much criminal mischief in those days, usually only rocks being reported thrown at someone's tin roof. Or a stolen chicken.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



my celebrity and their comfort level. From the Immigration counter agent who smiled broadly (almost giggling) while she questioned my stay in China, to the store owner at a shoe store who started running in place right in the middle of the mall to mimic Usain Bolt's performance, there is a bit of a benefit being "born a yaad!" ("yard" = Jamaican colloquialism for Jamaica; i.e. home)

Yep, I'd love to share with you the almost celebrity-like status one of particular genetic endowment can experience here, but, alas, this is not a blog-style column about my private exploits.

Or...

Perhaps the night club scene? With hip hop, reggae and "80's Night" with Chinese kids all wearing afro wigs? Nope. Not an Entertainment Column. Wish I could show you the photos!

Perhaps the unique side-by-side mix of modern high-rises and ancient temples? Nope. Not an Architecture Column. Drat!

Perhaps I could tell you how unusual it is perceived to be in a restaurant and requesting a vegan meal with no MSG, meat oil or sugar, but successfully negotiating the deal? Nope. Not a Dining Column. Oh, well!

What to do?

So, here I sit, still challenged. With just an hour left to my deadline, I have nothing to write that could serve as encouragement or inspiration to potential Saipanpreneurs to think differently about what they believe, what they've seen, and how they view themselves and others. Nothing that might encourage people to step outside of their proverbial boxes in their behavior and attitudes and experience new realities. Not a blessed thing! Man, my editor, Jayvee, is going to be mad! For today, as I sit here in China, I have absolutely nothing to share!

left in the

Note: With just a few days left in the adventure, anyone wishing to share in my private "Jamaican in China" e-mails is free to e-mail me at walt@passionprofit.com and I'll send you (almost) everything you've missed.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit <u>www.passionprofit.com</u>!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

But don't be misled—it was a great place to live. It still is.

To be continued.

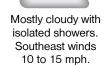
Editor's Note: Portions of the above text may have been previously cited elsewhere by the author. Bill Stewart is a former senior economist for the NMI and has privately authored several books, including Saipan in Flames, a World War II account; the Business Reference and Investment Guide to the CNMI and several hundred thousand tourist and historical maps of Saipan, Tinian and Rota distributed free by MVA and island businesses. His other investment promotional materials published by the government include Introducing the Northern Mariana Islands: An American Doorstep to Asia and Tourism Investment Opportunities in the NMI.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian





▲87° ▼77°



▲87° ▼78°

10 to 15 mph.



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▼78°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87°

▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	a Mostly Sunny	▲ 85	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲ 86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	\$88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 77
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 77

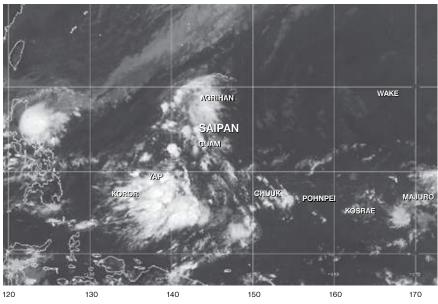
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 66 1	57
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 70 1	54
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼	70
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼	67
London	Showers	▲63 ♦	46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼	/54
Manila	Thundershowers	s▲87 ▼	777
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 59 1	46
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲83 ∜	74
New York	Showers	▲ 68 \	49
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼	46
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 61 \	45
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 69 √	47
Rome	Showers	▲ 62 1	48
Salem	Showers	▲ 55 \	37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 \	48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼	45
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 68 ∜	52

Washington, DC Thunderstorms ▲73 ▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image

▲87°



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N145E to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this front. A surface trough stretches from 10N136E to 18N140E. Low-level winds converging east of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just west of the Marianas between 12N and 20N from 140E to 144E. A monsoon trough runs eastward from 7N130E to a circulation centered near Palau at 7N136E then southeastward to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in an area bounded by 2N137E to 8N133E to 10N142E to 5N145E back to 2N137E. This area includes Yap and Koror. Low-level west winds coupled with favorable upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 1N and 5N from 148E to 151E. Scattered trade-wind showers are found near Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 7N150E to 7N155E. A weak circulation is centered southeast of Kosrae at 4N169E. Scattered showers are found within 50 miles of a line from 4N169E to 5N168E.

	lides		Sı	Sunrise/Sunset			
Saipan Harbor			Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM		
4:55 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	Thursday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM		
9:23 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	Friday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM		
5:04 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	Saturday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM		
			Sunday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM		

M M	oonrise/Moo	nset
Today	9:21 AM	10:53 PM
Thursday	10:25 AM	11:49 PM
Friday	11:28 AM	
Saturday	12:28 PM	12:39 AM
Sunday	1:25 PM	1:25 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRÁVELOGUE
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ SAMU'T SARI

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

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- jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com. Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

6:25pm 1:20am+1 2.3.4.5.6.7

Narita-Guam

Osaka-Saipan

Osaka-Guam

Nagoya-Saipan

Nagova-Guam

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 120

OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm

7:10pm

Busan-Saipan

Guam-Rota

Palau-Guam

Manila-Palau

Manila-Guam

Manila-Nagoya

Manila-Narita

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7

OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6

OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7

FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+11,5

CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6

CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5

CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily

OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily

OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6

OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily

7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Hongkong-Incheon

CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror

CO 954 2:30am 5:25am

CO 892 2:35am 5:30am

NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm

NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm

OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7

NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily

NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily

NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily

1.2.3.4.7

5.6 via Rota

Daily

Daily

Daily

1.2

4,6

via Osaka

2:20am+1 3,5,7

EPAR	TUR	ES		ARF	RIVAL	5
	10.05	17			4.00	5.0
11:50am	12:25pm	1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
n-Guan	1		Guam	-Saipaı	1	
5:00am	5:50am	Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,
8:30am	9:20am	Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via
11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
n-Narit	а		Narita	-Saipa	n	
5:00am 8:20am	7:35am 1:30pm	Daily 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 076 NW 077	10:15am 6:25pm	2:40pm 1:20am+1	Daily 2,3,4,
4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
	n-Rota 11:50am n-Guan 5:00am 8:30am 11:50am 12:30pm 6:30pm 9:30pm n-Narit 5:00am 8:20am	n-Rota 11:50am 12:25pm n-Guam 5:00am 5:50am 8:30am 9:20am 11:50am 1:20pm 12:30pm 1:20pm 3:30pm 4:20pm 6:30pm 7:20pm 9:30pm 10:20pm n-Narita 5:00am 7:35am 8:20am 1:30pm	11:50am 12:25pm 1,7 n-Guam 5:00am 5:50am Daily 8:30am 9:20am Daily 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily n-Narita 5:00am 7:35am Daily 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	Rota 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan	Rota-Saipan

Guam-Narita NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily

NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily Saipan-Osaka

OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1.4.6 Guam-Osaka

NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily **Guam-Nagoya** NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am O7 604 2:40am 6:30am 2.3.4.5.6.7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7 Saipan-Shanghai

Saipan-Busan

FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2.6 Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5

Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5

Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7

Narita-Manila 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

NW 2

Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-R			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sai		0.00	Dailu
Saipan-I	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Gu			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-R FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Sai	•	F. 0 F	D-il-
Saipan-I	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Gu	ıam		
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-1		0.55	D 11
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103 FRE 105	7:30am 8:00am	7:40am 8:10am	Daily
FRE 105	8:40am	8:50am	Daily Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

ETA Frequency ETD 1:00pm 1:10pm FRE 115 Daily FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily Daily FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm FRE 123 * 5:40pm 5:50pm Daily FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting

flights to Rota or Guam**

FRF 102 7:05am 7:15am FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily FRF 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily 3:00pm FRE 118 2:50pm FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily FRE 122** 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily FRE 126 6:20pm 6:30pm Daily

Clichés

lichés are things we live with on a daily basis. Trite, boring, often meaningless; well, are they really? Where do they come from? Why do they seem to have a life of their own—one might argue even eternal life of their own? The answer to such questions may actually be fairly simple: they come from the great reservoir of apodeictic truth! Clichés gain eternal life from the fact that they are actually snippets of eternal wisdom. Will Rogers would have said they derived from common sense. Heck, he probably did say it! Let's look at some of these.

"The squeaky wheel gets the grease." Truer words were never uttered—yes, I know that's yet another cliché. Think about it. If we never complain (squeak), if we never ask the question why, if we never make any waves, and yes, I know that's yet another cliché, will anybody ever do anything about anything? I posit the theory that they probably will not. So as the immortal Aesop might have said, the moral is to squeak louder, not less so, and thereby perhaps engender change. Remember, as George Santayana once wrote: "Those who do not learn from history are destined to relive it, and yes that too has become all but yet another cliché. Or...

"Burn the candle at both ends." Oh my, this one should be

a warning to us all. Burning the candle at both ends, of course, refers to being overly concerned with achievement, or even responsibility. If we are working day and night, if we never give it a rest, and yes I know that is yet another cliché, we will one day wake up to discover that life has passed us by, and that in fact nobody ever really cared, i.e., that we burned the candle at both ends. Duh, yuh think there's a message there, cowboy! Oh yeah! Or again...

"Damned if you do and damned if you don't." Boy, oh boy, talk about a Catch 22, a rock and a hard place, oh well, you get the picture. Sometimes we simply cannot please everybody. If we make the decision to do what is right in the eyes of the one, the other will not be our friend and vice versa. Let's say President Obama does the impossible and gets universal health care for all Americans. It is likely that the AMA will hate him because salaries for doctors will become more limited. If on the other hand he caters to the AMA, many people will remain without medical recourse. He can't win; somebody's not gonna be happy! And finally...

"Don't count your chickens before they're hatched." Now this one is for the gamblers out there, and I know there's a lot of you. Heck, I have to include myself in this one. Ever hang around

By STEPHEN B. SMITH

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.



a poker parlor. Usually, just outside the door, are a whole bunch of guys smoking cigarettes and looking desperate. Most are wearing the same t-shirt they put on four days ago, and most are hoping that they will be the one in eight million to hit the jackpot and get their money back. They have fallen into such straits because they were certain that this was going to be their day. It wasn't. And me? When the stock market crashed a few months ago; I immediately went online and bought General Motors shares at \$3; I mean I bought a lot of shares. Well, I still have my fingers crossed hoping that the chickens don't come home to roost!

We live and die by clichés folks. Never doubt it.

Suburban view of ground zero

vetching is an honored tradition of all the boroughs of Planet Earth. New York City. It is the Jewish practice of questioning how one can in fact sing the praises of Zion by the Rivers of Babylon, or Tevye in the Fiddler on the Roof, suggesting to the high heavens that it would not have been such a bad idea had he been born a rich man! In modern Jewish therapy, kvetching is the art and discipline of creative complaining. The sons and daughters of Abraham are well known for inventing and patronizing the comfort of the 50-minute couch!

On a 10-day mission of mercy to the Big Apple, I had enough time to reflect on the significance of 9/11 ground zero in lower Manhattan, but instead of focusing on the core source of American anxiety, I was confronted by the vitality that is present at the street level in metropolitan Midtown, NYC, and storefront level of suburban New York

Coming out of getting a Chinese visa on 42nd and 12th Ave., I was struck by the composition of the folks that were inside the waiting room with me. There were the eastern European Hasidic Jews with their shteimel (black hat, the tradition that birthed the dashiki and the fedora), curly locks, long beards, and totally black attire from frock to boots, applying to go to Guangzhou while their more traditional yarmulke (black skullcap) wearing brethren clutched their papers for Shanghai. Not genially in speaking terms, they were joined by two kufiya-wearing (white skullcap) Muslim traders who were in line, too, as they gaze toward the commercial and industrial possibilities in the land of Cathay.

Then there were the arts and letters professionals who are exploring the wisdom of the East, including my seatmate who was heading for Hong Kong to hobnob with colleagues, professionals who have since joined the Atlantic-facing architects who had proven their mettle in the likes of I.M. Pei and Maya Lin.

Of the people who belong to a national community that numbers one-out-of-five residents of the planet, the descendants of the *Qins* and Hans and their numerous minority cousins are themselves amply represented in every borough of the city. The folks from Yunnan who would not normally be able to verbally communicate with their Hakka, Fujian, Mongolian, Manchurian, Turgic, and Sichuanese comrades, have since been banded together with the unifying force of a common written language in the imaginal Middle Kingdom of

With a swine flu epidemic afoot across the North American continent, I have refrained from descending into Manhattan and its crowded environs, giving my perspective a closer view of the suburban setting, particularly around Spring Valley 40 miles northwest

Spring Valley, dominated by the yarmulke-wearing crowd in the 60s, has rapidly expanded to include their Hasidic brethren/ sistern, as well as the Francophone Haitians, the Iberian Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and MexTex, pockets of subAsian Islamic merchants and professionals from the Bengal to the Indus Valley and the Kyber Pass, and the ubiquitous Chans and their *chopsuey* shops, along with the Kangs and their bulgogi and kimchee offerings. Scattered Pinoys and their redolent bagoongs (salted-fish sauce) made my presence in the community possible as I accomplished my task in Manhattan with the gracious hosting of former classmates from way-back-when in Ilocandia.

Spring Valley is surrounded by the ethos of the "new" as communities sprouted around it with names like New Hempstead, New Clarkston, New Square and New City. New City even enjoys the misnomer of "Gaza Strip" for its new multi-dwelling Hasidic residents, but the nation of immigrants of JFK Jr. are no longer just the people of European descent that peopled the boroughs of New York and Boston. The swahili of West Africa is now neighbor to the putung hua of Shejiang in China! The glocal village of the 21st century is alive and thriving in the primal city of the United States of America, New York City and its environs!

Sigmund Freud is often quoted as suggesting that "the first human who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization." The civilizing process is vigorously working itself out in the villages and hamlets of the Yankee pockets of Americana, and perhaps, were one to really locate the geography of its ground zero, of the heartbeat of America, one will have to move beyond the memorial grief and shivers of fear emanating from the south end of Manhattan, into the hearts and minds of the residents that ply their trade along 42nd St., and the storefronts of the commercial centers of places like Spring Valley.

Which is not to say that all is hunky-dory in the land of the free and the home of the brave. From Spring Valley into the city, one can By JAIME VERGARA Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



drive down through the scenic Palisades Parkway by the Hudson, with its five-bedroom single family unit homes housing the proverbial "two-garage, two cats, 2.2. children, and a boiling chicken-in-every-pot" dwelling. How sustainable this is as the future of communities of glocal America is a critical political, economic and cultural issue.

For all of Donald Trump's commercialism, the Trump towers along the Hudson river parkway may offer a better option for urban settlement, albeit these ones are of the upscale models, than the isolated manors that dots the countryside of the eastern seaboard from Maryland to Maine. Along the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway are the escapist settlements of car-driving nuclear family units which the current economic crisis has since called into question, its dependence on gas-guzzling, inefficient, and polluting motor transport soon hopefully to be consigned into the annals of Smithsonian history.

I suspect that this telling of NYC equally applies to the situation in the windy city of Chicago and the Bay Area of San Francisco, even the polluting air of the City of Angels, and the gargantuan pretensions of Dallas. The reality of Spring Valley is itself a microcosm of the suburban dwellings of farmland Midwest America, in the *ecotopia* of the Pacific West, the pueblos of the Southwest, the parishes of the delta South, and townships of the foothills of the Appalachian south East.

In this season of kvetching in the time of the swine flu and anemic Wall Street, we locate the ground zero of America not in a piece of Manhattan real estate but in the throbbing heartbeats of America. Might that *Chamolinia* of the Marianas really join as a family member these emerging glocal settlements of contemporary America!

Letter to the Editor

'Legislative Bureau did not fail OGA test'

ment Act. In short, the Legislative Bureau complied by being available during normal business hours, but the reporter did not return to inspect anything.

The coverage states that the Bureau took 15 days to comply with the request via electronic mail and without explanation for its delay. Saipan Tribune's letter request was submitted to the Bureau on April 8, 2009, hand-delivered by the reporter who frequents the Bureau. I remember smiling after she left the office because it was unlike the reporter to submit a request in writing and leave before even attempting to get the requested information right away. Normally, we would agree for the information to be provided via e-mail if she is in a hurry. I did not treat the request any differently thinking that we already had an understanding that requested information will be provided via e-mail if she didn't have time to wait. After she left however, I read the letter and the request was to make available the information for inspection.

Contrary to the news reporting that auditors were told to request a copy of documents, this reporter requested to make avail-

erage on "The Sunshine Project" pertaining to the Open Govern- I did not respond via e-mail within the 10 days requirement but inspection of anything. The Bureau, however, voluntarily provided instead was waiting for the reporter to return so she may inspect the information she requested. Since the 10th day falls on a Saturday (04/18/09) and I was scheduled to be on personal leave the following Monday and Tuesday, on Friday, April 17, the ninth day of the request, I prepared a written response letter to be given to the reporter when she does find the time to return to the Bureau to inspect the information being requested.

> To my knowledge, the reporter didn't return to the Bureau. I asked the staff next to my office if the reporter came by and was told that she didn't. I checked with the Administrative Assistant for any telephone call messages and there was none. The reporter has my e-mail address and my work contact number, as well as my personal cellular phone number, which she normally uses. In this case, there was no communication from the reporter to advise when she was to return to inspect the information being requested. I thought she may be too busy or may have forgotten so I decided to e-mail her the Bureau's response on Wednesday (04/22/09) so that I could clear this task from my pending assignments.

Incidentally, after a diligent search, it appears that the requested

I am writing in response to Saipan Tribune's April 27 headline covable the information for inspection. Therefore, with this request, document did not even exist, so the Bureau did not fail to allow information beyond the scope of the request.

The Legislative Bureau did not flunk the OGA Test conducted by the Saipan Tribune. The Open Government Act mandates the Bureau to make available public records for inspection by any person during the established office hours. The Bureau complied but the reporter did not return to inspect anything.

It may be a miscommunication, or it may be purposely set up, but if a test is to be conducted, the conductor must be clear with the test requirement and should not be sneaky to set up failure. In addition, the grader must have something to grade and because the reporter never came back within the 10 days requirement, then how could a failing grade be given if the conductor herself failed to conduct the test properly?

Although there is still room for improvement, I stand by the Bureau's performance responding to OGA requests generally and specifically in this instance.

Glenna SP Reyes

Director, Legislative Bureau

NMC Charter Day celebration is next Friday

Celebrating its 28th year of helping people further their education, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the community to its Charter Day festivities which will be held at the NMC Field on Friday, May 8, 2009, from 4pm to 11pm.

Headlining the event will be the highly-anticipated Marianas Idol Competition, which will feature some of the CN-MI's most talented singers competing for the title of 2009 Marianas Idol as well as prizes donated by the event's sponsors.

Those who wish to participate in the competition must take part in the audition scheduled for Monday, May 4, at 5pm at the NMC Student Center. Five finalists will be selected from the audition to perform at the Charter Day Festivities on Friday, May 8.

Other competitions will include the NMC Charter Day Dance Crew Compe-

Aside from the exciting entertainment, a delicious array of snacks and local delicacies like the ones seen in this photo from last year's Charter Day festivities will be on sale at this year's celebration, which is scheduled for next week Friday, May 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LARGEST INDIVIDUAL WALKATHON DONOR



tition, the Battle of the Bands, and the Miss Pugua Beauty Pageant.

In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies and specialty drinks for sale. Confirmed booths include 3's, Poons, Magie's, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Cherry, Champs, Mr. Smoothie, Java Joes, Lynn's, Alliance, Sierra's, the NMC Library Legendary Guild, the Chamorro Club, the NMC Spirit Squad, the NMC Bookstore, and the Upward Bound Program. Other booths will have games for kids.

The Northern Marianas College's Recruitment Committee will also be hosting a booth at Charter Day; students interested in applying for admission for Fall 2009 may pick up an application and get their application fee and placement test fees waived.

Interested individuals may still register for booth space by Friday, May 1. Booth registration forms may be downloaded online at www.nmcnet.edu or picked up at the NMC Student Center in Building J. For more information, call Perry Inos Jr., at 234-5498 Ext. 1253 or email perryi@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Two landowners sue Jin Apparel, officer

Two landowners sued the defunct Jin Apparel Inc. and its officer for allegedly failing to pay the lease agreement to their

Daniel T. Villagomez and Rosario DLG. Villagomez sued Jin Apparel and Hun Soo Park for breach of contract.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Judy DLG. Torres, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

The Villagomez plaintiffs and the defendants executed a ground lease agreement on April 2, 1987. Pursuant to the amended lease agreement, Jin Apparel and Park agreed to pay plaintiffs every month \$2,000, increasing by 5 percent every five years from the date the instrument was executed.

Torres said the defendants failed to make any payments from January to March in 2009. On March 5, 2009, Torres said his clients notified the defendants in writing of their default and breach of the lease agreement.

In October 2007, Jin Apparel filed a notice to the Department of Labor about its plan to suspend business operations from Dec. 31, 2007, until March 31, 2008. (Ferdie de la Torre)

PAWS to meet in last-ditch try to save the organization

PAWS, the island's only non-profit animal welfare organization, will be having a no-host meeting at Coffee Care at noon on Thursday, April 30. The purpose of the meeting is to recruit new volunteers and save PAWS from permanently closing its operations.

Since the beginning of PAWS, the main focus of the organization has been to help animals in need of homes and medical care. Over the years, the organization has offered the community help with veterinary costs, hosted low-cost spay and neuter clinics, found homes for unwanted animals, organized a humane education committee, hosted dog shows, and worked towards improving the lives of Saipan's people and animals by lobbying for an anti-cruelty statute and a humane animal shelter.

PAWS is currently a working partner of the United States Humane Society and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, a United Nations Partner. With the help of these organizations, PAWS has obtained dog safety and humane education materials for children K-8, dog catching cages, muzzles, leashes, and animal care items.

"Unfortunately, having these items or the money to purchase necessary items is not enough for us to be sustainable," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell. "We need volunteers—manpower—to really help the community and the animals of Saipan.'

PAWS is currently reduced to three board members and fewer than 30 general

"We cannot continue to operate with so few active volunteers. The demand for help is too much for three people to handle alone. So, the board has decided that if fewer than 15 people attend the meeting on April 30, we will be forced to dissolve the organization," said Busenkell.

In what Busenkell called a "last-ditch attempt" to save the organization, PAWS is meeting for a no-host lunch at Coffee Care on Thursday, April 30, at noon. All those interested in attending should RSVP no later than April 29th to bgrizzard@saipan.com or call 483-9464 Alternatively, you may contact 285-PAWS. (PR)

prize of 25,000 OnePass miles donated by Juan T. Guerrero and MITA travel. The Red Cross is a volunteer led humanitarian organization whose core mission is to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. In picture are Jolene Torres, managing director, MITA Travel; Elias Seman, and John Hirsh, executive director, NMI Chapter. Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law Plata Drive, Whispe ring Palms (Chalan Kiya)

P.O. Box 503758

Tel: (670) 234-7859 Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

No.-08-0080-e WILLLAM S, AGULTO AMENDED Defendants.

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT WILLIAM S. AGULTO AND CANDELARIA K. AGULTO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guarn, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. In case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the

So ORDERED this 25th day of March, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan

The adult individual who raised the most donations for this year's Red Cross Walkathon

was Elias Seman. "We are honored by his dedication and commitment to the mission of

the Red Cross," said Viola Sablan, co-chair of this year's Walkathon. Seman went door to

door collecting donations to support the local Chapter. Raising over \$430 dollars, Seman

won several prizes including a DoCoMo cell phone, several gift certificates and a grand

Attorney for Petitioner Lynda B. Palacio

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MARIA PALACIOS ROYSE OR HER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lynda

ESTATE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lynda
B. Palacios, has petitioned the Superior Court of
the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands for
Letters of Administration and for the Appointment
of Frances Hill as Administratirs of the Estate of
Maria Palacios Royse, Deceased. The attorney for
Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney al Law,
whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Po.
Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing of the Petition for Letters of
Administration and Appointment of Administratrix by Lynda B. Palacios, as Petitioner, has
been set for May 19, 2009 at 1:30 pm, at the
Superior Court of the Commonwealth Northern
Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands. All interested persons or
entities should appear at this hearing.
Any and all persons, creditors or entities
having claims against the Deceased or heirs estate
are hereby required by law to file their claims
with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of
this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A
copy of your claim should also be sent to
ROBERT'T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the
address hereinabove indicated.

Dated this 22nd day of April 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA A. SABLAN Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota. The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
- Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, "AS IS".

 Sunset Villa is being sold "WITHOUT WARRANTY" of a
- CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Unless otherwise proposed and accepted by CDA, the remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) business days of the award. Failure to make payment of that remaining balance within ten (10) business days shall result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA

Interested party or person are asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" attention Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director. Deadline to submit proposal is 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2009.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2009.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, is requesting for proposals for the design/build of one (1) generator with controls and housing to be situated at the Port of Saipan.

An on site pre-proposal meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30 at 3:30 pm at the Port of Saipan Conference Room at the Seaport Administrative Building. The project scope of work and location of the generator will be discussed. Therefore, attendance is a requirement for submission of proposal.

Proposals are to be submitted to the Executive Director's office at the Saipan International Airport office no later than 4:00 pm on May 29, 2009.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009 **15**

Business

wine flu could mean new threat to US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy, which was showing tentative early signs of a recovery, faces a potentially grave new threat: swine flu. A widespread outbreak could batter the tourism, food and transportation industries in particular, deepening the recession in the U.S. and possibly worldwide.

With the U.S. and the global

other severe blow could reverse any progress made in easing the recession.

The European Union advised against nonessential travel to the United States and Mexico. And worried Wall Street investors pounded stocks of airline companies, hotels, cruise operators and some food firms on

economy already fragile, an- fears that the flu would crimp to the economy." consumer demand.

> But at least three major airlines said their operations are proceeding normally and have not canceled any flights to Mexico.

Brian Bethune, economist at IHS Global Insight, said, "You can argue that the swine flu amplifies the downside risks

The U.S. economy could end up shrinking a bit more than now expected. But most experts don't think a swine-flu outbreak by itself would elimi-

ly worsen the economy.

Simon Johnson, former chief economist to the International Monetary Fund and a professor at the Massachu-

nate many U.S. jobs or severe-setts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management, envisions only a "small hit" to economic activity in the United States—just a few tenths of 1 percentage point.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **Department of Public Lands**

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of of the Governor, in cooperation with the Department of Public Lands ("DPL") and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian, hereby notifies all Tinian Village Homestead applicants that the DPL will conduct a lottery drawing of homestead lots on Thursday, April 30th at 9:30 A.M. at the Tinian Youth Center.

All applicants are required to bring a valid proof of identification. An applicant unable to be present on the date and time of the drawing may be allowed to participate in the drawing by appointing a duly authorized representative. Such representative is required to bring a valid proof of identification of himself/herself and that of the non-appearing applicant. A representative must also present a valid proof of express delegation of authority to participate in the drawing on behalf of the nonappearing applicant.

All applicants are advised to be on time.

/s/ JOHN S. DELROSARIO, JR. **Secretary, Department of Public Lands**

GM could become leaner, government-owned company

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors, once the colossus of American capitalism, will become a leaner, governmentowned company if the Obama administration goes along with the automaker's plan to slash jobs, close plants and eliminate the legendary Pontiac brand.

As GM laid out the proposal Monday, new agreements fell into place between Chrysler and its unions in the United States and Canada, making it apparent that the future of both companies now rests with their creditors.

General Motors CEO Fritz Henderson said the company would offer the Treasury Department more than 50 percent of its stock to absolve GM of \$10 billion in government loans.

The automaker also proposed

that the United Auto Workers take GM stock for at least half the \$20 billion the company owes to a union-run trust that will assume retiree health care expenses starting next year.

Combined, the union and government would own 89 percent of the century-old automaker, which has been bleeding red ink and is saddled with more than \$62 billion in debt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Whirlpool 1Q profit drops on weakening demand GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

(AP)—Whirlpool Corp., the world's largest maker of stoves, refrigerators and other major home appliances, said Monday its first-quarter profit fell 28 percent on slumping sales, softening consumer demand and the stronger dollar. But its shares climbed as it beat Wall Street's expectations for a loss for the January-March period and reaffirmed its full-year outlook which is above analysts' consensus forecast. One analyst said the company is doing well in the face of the economic downturn. Its shares rose \$2.96, or 7.3 percent, to close at \$43.69 Monday. The maker of Maytag and KitchenAid appliances as

well as its namesake brand said it profit fell to \$68 million, or 91 cents per share, from \$94 million, or \$1.22 per share, a year earlier. Its sales dropped 23 percent to \$3.57 billion from \$4.6 billion a year earlier in part because its products were more expensive to overseas customers as a result of the stronger

Verizon 1st-qtr profit, revenue beat expectations

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon Communications Inc. said Monday its earnings grew 5 percent in the first quarter, boosted by its acquisition of Alltel Corp. and strong demand for its wireless, Internet and TV services. Verizon, which is the second-largest U.S. telecommunications provider, earned \$3.21 billion, or 58 cents per share, compared with \$3.05 billion, or 57 cents per share, a year ago. Excluding charges related to its acquisition of Alltel, Verizon earned 63 cents per share—4 cents higher than analysts polled by Thomson Reuters had expected. Revenue rose almost 12 percent to \$26.6 billion. That topped Wall Street's expectations of \$26.3 billion in revenue. Revenue from Verizon Wireless, which is a joint venture with Vodafone Group PLC of Britain, rose 30 percent to \$15.1 billion. During the quarter, Verizon Wireless added 1.3 million net customers—more than the 1.2 million rival AT&T Inc. reported last week and the 1.18 million that analysts were expecting.

RESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	019E	4/18 Sat	4/16 Thu	4/16 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/11 Sat	4/24 Fri	4/20 Mon	4/19 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/20 Mon	4/24 Fri	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	4/25 Sat	4/23 Thu	4/23 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/18 Sat	5/1 Fri	4/27 Mon	4/26 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/27 Mon	5/1 Fri	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/2 Sat	4/30 Thu	4/30 Thu	4/28 Tue	4/25 Sat	5/8 Fri	5/4 Mon	5/3 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	5/4 Mon	5/8 Fri	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/9 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/7 Thu	5/5 Tue	5/2 Sat	5/15 Fri	5/11 Mon	5/10 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/11 Mon	5/15 Fri	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/16 Sat	5/14 Thu	5/14 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/9 Sat	5/22 Fri	5/18 Mon	5/17 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/18 Mon	5/22 Fri	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	022E	5/23 Sat	5/21 Thu	5/21 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/16 Sat	5/29 Fri	5/25 Mon	5/24 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/25 Mon	5/29 Fri	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue

Inbound	Voyage	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
from Asia	No.	Gı	ıam	Saipan	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Yokohama	Manila	Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	019E	5/2 Sat	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Thu	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/15 Fri	5/16 Sat	5/21 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/7 Sun	5/20 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/14 Thu	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue	5/22 Fri	5/23 Sat	5/28 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/14 Sun	5/27 Wed
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	SKIP	5/21 Thu	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/29 Fri	5/30 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/21 Sun	6/3 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/28 Thu	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue	6/5 Fri	6/6 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/28 Sun	6/10 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	SKIP	6/4 Thu	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/12 Fri	6/13 Sat	6/18 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/5 Sun	6/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	022E	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/11 Thu	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue	6/19 Fri	6/20 Sat	6/25 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/12 Sun	6/24 Wed

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Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Fiancee loves Craigslist suspect, but wedding off?

BOSTON (AP)—The fiancee of a medical student accused of killing a masseuse he met through Craigslist said Monday she still loves him, but the band hired to perform at their scheduled August wedding said it's been told it won't be needed. Megan McAllister said she still supports suspect Philip Markoff but will be cooperating with prosecutors, who say he killed one woman and robbed another. "It is my intent to fully cooperate with my fiance's attorney as well as the Suffolk County District Attorney's office as they both continue their investigations," she said in a statement. "I can only tell them what I know and what is the truth."

'Rockefeller' wins battle to block comments

BOSTON (AP)—The man who calls himself Clark Rockefeller has won a court fight to keep jurors from hearing most of his fourhour interrogation after a judge ruled that investigators persisted even though he had invoked his right to remain silent. Rockefeller, a German whose real name is Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter (GEHR'-harts-ry-tur), is charged with kidnapping his 7-year-old daughter during a supervised visit in July in Boston, leading to an international manhunt. He was found with the unharmed girl in Baltimore six days later. He claimed he told investigators 14 minutes into the interrogation the day he was found that he didn't want to talk. Suffolk Superior Court Judge Frank Gaziano agreed in a ruling made public Monday that Gerhartsreiter had "clearly and unequivocally" invoked his right to remain silent, but that investigators continued to interrogate him.

Same-sex couples begin tying the **knot in Iowa**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)-Same-sex couples in Iowa began holding hastily planned weddings Monday as the state became the third to allow gay marriage, a leap that even some supporters find hard to grasp in the nation's heartland. Within hours of a state Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage taking effect, several same-sex couples had exchanged vows on the steps of the Polk County Administrative Building. "It's not very romantic is it?" Melisa Keeton joked, referring to the location of the ceremony and the media attention, before marrying Shelley Wolfe. The couple were allowed to wed after getting a judge to waive the state's threeday waiting period. The waiver was granted after the couple claimed the wait was stressful on Keeton, who is pregnant and due in August.

US reaction to swine flu more muted than elsewhere

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—U.S. airports and border agents waved people through Monday with little or no additional screening for Mexico's deadly swine flu a far more muted reaction than the extreme caution elsewhere around the world.

The number of confirmed U.S. cases rose to 42, most of them mild and none fatal. The government said it was shipping millions of doses of flufighting medicine from a federal stockpile to states along the Mexican border or where the virus has been detected.

But the American reaction to swine flu, which has killed up to 149 people in Mexico and on Monday led the World Health Organization to raise its alert level, was mostly limited to steps that hospitals, schools and mask-wearing individuals took on their own.

At the main pedestrian border crossing between El Paso and Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, a handful of people wore protective masks and officials handed out a swine flu flier provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But there were no extra screenings for swine flu, and it mostly looked like a typical day



Marco Lugo walks through the Miami airport, Monday, April 27, 2009 after arriving on a flight from Mexico City for a family visit.

at the border. Suddenly faced with a new and unforeseen threat, people entering the country who said they felt unwell were questioned about their symptoms. But there were no reports of anyone refused entry.

Jorge Juarez and Miranda Carnero, both 18, crossed the border wearing bright blue masks. "It's just a precaution," said Juarez, who lives in El Paso and drew a smiley face on his mask.

Passengers from a Mexico City flight that arrived at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersev said they were surprised customs officials did nothing more than hand them an informational flier.

"Everyone's afraid. But when we got here, they said 'Welcome to America. You don't need that," said Alejandro Meneses of Fairlawn, N.J., pointing to a paper mask hanging from his neck.

The confirmed U.S. cases included 28 at a private high school in New York City, eight in California, three in Texas, two in Kansas and one in Ohio. Only one American case has led to a hospitalization.

President Barack Obama characterized the U.S. cases as a cause for concern but not "a cause for alarm." The federal government said travel warnings for trips to Mexico would remain in place as long as swine flu is detected.

Public health experts cautioned that screenings were not foolproof. People with the flu can spread the virus to others before any symptoms show up.

"It's not a perfect solution," said Greg Gray, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the University of Iowa College of Public Health, who estimated the screenings would pick up 80 to 90 percent of cases.

Sailor sues over safety of pirated Maersk Alabama

HOUSTON (AP)—A member of the crew on the U.S.-flagged ship hijacked by African pirates sued the owner and another company Monday, accusing them of knowingly putting sailors in danger. Richard E. Hicks alleges in the suit that owner Maersk Line Limited and Waterman Steamship Corp., which provided the crew, ignored requests to improve safety measures for vessels sailing along the Somali coast.

Hicks was chief cook on the Maersk Alabama. Pirates held the ship's captain hostage for five days until the U.S. Navy rescued him.

Hicks' lawsuit seeks at least \$75,000 in damages and improved safety.

Officials for Norfolk, Va.based Maersk Line and Mobile, Ala.-based Waterman said their companies don't comment on pending litigation.

Hicks asked that the two companies improve safety for ships by providing armed security or allowing crew members to carry weapons, sending ships through safer routes, and placing such safety measures on ships as barbed wire that would prevent pirates from being able to board vessels.

"We've had safety meetings every month for the last three years and made suggestions of what should be done and they have been ignored," Hicks said. "I'm just trying to make sure this

is a lot better for other seamen."

Hicks also asked the two companies pay at least \$75,000 in damages, saying he doesn't know if he will ever work on a

"My family is not looking forward to me going back out to sea. But I'm not sure if I'm going back. I'm still nervous, leery. I might find something else to do, said Hicks, who has worked 32 years as a merchant seaman.

"We think (the companies) should be more concerned about the personnel on their ships than the profits the companies make," said Terry Bryant, Hicks' attorney.

Both companies do business in Texas, which is why the suit was filed in Houston, he said.

Pirates took over the Alabama on April 8 before Capt. Richard Phillips surrendered himself in exchange for the safety of his 19-member crew. The captain was taken on a lifeboat and held hostage for five days before U.S. Navy SEAL snipers on the destroyer USS Bainbridge killed three of his captors and freed him.

Hicks said crew members have been trained on what to do if pirates or others threaten the ship.

"We need more than training," said the 53-year-old who lives in Royal Palm Beach. Fla., and has two grown sons. "I never thought nothing like this would ever happen."

Jet flyover in lower Manhattan sets off panic

NEW YORK (AP)—An airliner and supersonic fighter jet zoomed past the lower Manhattan skyline in a flash just as the work day was beginning Monday. Within minutes, startled financial workers streamed out of their offices, fearing a nightmarish replay of Sept. 11.

For a half-hour, the Boeing 747 and F-16 jet circled the Statue of Liberty and the lower Manhattan skyline near the World Trade Center site. Offices evacuated. Dispatchers were inundated with calls. Witnesses thought the planes were flying dangerously low.

But the flyover was nothing but a photo op, apparently one of a series of flights to get pictures of the plane in front of

national landmarks.

It was carried out by the Defense Department with little warning, infuriating New York officials and putting the White House on the defense. Even Mayor Michael Bloomberg didn't know about it, and he later called it "insensitive" to fly so near the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The director of the White House military office, Louis Caldera, took the blame a few hours later. One of the planes was a 747 that is called Air Force One when used by the president.

"Last week, I approved a mission over New York. I take responsibility for that decision," Caldera said. "While federal authorities took the of Liberty as a backdrop.

proper steps to notify state and local authorities in New York and New Jersey, it's clear that the mission created confusion and disruption. I apologize and take responsibility for any distress that flight caused."

When told of the flight, President Barack Obama was furious, a White House official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Still, federal officials provided few details and wouldn't say why the public and area building security managers weren't notified. They also wouldn't address why someone thought it was a wise decision to send two jets into New York City, all for a few photos with the Statue

Ex-sheriff pleads not guilty after deputies killed

NICEVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A wrong in the weekend shooting jury Thursday in a scheme to suspended Florida sheriff pleaded not guilty to money laundering and conspiracy charges on Monday, two days after two of his former deputies were killed by a National Guard soldier they were trying to arrest.

Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris and Teresa Adams, his administrative assistant, made no comments following the brief hearing.

On Sunday, Interim Sheriff Ed Spooner, who was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist to take over the troubled department just eight weeks ago, met with his department's 300 employees to try and explain what went that left two deputies and the man they were trying to arrest for domestic battery dead.

Another deputy, Anthony Forgione, died in July after he was shot by a suicidal man who had barricaded himself in a home.

"All the things that keep happening, it's like a scab that keeps getting peeled back over and over," said Larry Carter, the department's senior chaplain. FBI agents arrested Morris in February while he was on a gambling trip to Las Vegas.

Morris and Adams were indicted by a federal grand create fictitious bonuses for department employees and pocket the money.

Carter said employees had been preparing a May memorial service for Forgione and trying to put Morris' arrest behind them when Deputies Burt Lopez and Warren "Skip" York were killed. Lopez and York had no warning a confrontation would occur when they tried to arrest Joshua Cartwright, 28, in the parking lot of a gun range, Spooner said. The deputies used a stun gun to subdue Cartwright, but he was able to start shooting at them from the ground.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009 **17**

Asia

Bin Laden 'may be dead'—or not

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's president said Monday his intelligence agencies believe Osama bin Laden may be dead, but he added there is no proof. Other Pakistani officials and a U.S. counterterrorism official said they thought the al-Qaida chief is alive.

U.S. officials said bin Laden is most likely hiding in the mountains along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, in particular the lawless tribal regions.

"We continue to believe that bin Laden is alive," said the U.S. official, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the matter on the record.

Reports of bin Laden's death or of near-captures have punctuated his years on the run since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, only to be seemingly debunked by periodic audio and video recordings.

The latest recording emerged

in March, in which bin Laden fied his comment by saying bin referred to the December-January Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, calling it a "holocaust." and spoke of the January election of Somalia's U.N.-backed president, calling for him to be overthrown.

In an interview Monday with international media outlets, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said American officials had told him they do not know where bin Laden is.

"They are much more informed," Zardari said. "They've been actually after him for a longer time. They've got more equipment. They've got more intelligence. ... so they tell us they have no trace at the moment."

Zardari added that his country's intelligence agencies "obviously feel that he does not exist anymore," but he didn't explain how or when they reached that conclusion, and quickly qualiLaden "may be dead."

"That's not confirmed. We can't confirm that," he said. "It's still in between fiction and fact."

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, appearing later Monday with his visiting British counterpart at a news conference, seemed surprised when a reporter asked about Zardari's remarks.

"I don't know what are the comments of the president, but at the same time, I must clarify this, that nobody knows about Osama bin Laden," Gilani said. "We don't know about it, whether he is alive or dead."

Mahmood Shah, a former security chief in the tribal regions, said he believes bin Laden is alive. "Where, I don't know. If he had died, we would have heard a lot of noise among the militants. From that I'd guess that he is alive," he said.

HK scientists developing rapid test for swine flu

BEIJING (AP)—Hong Kong said Monday it has assigned a team of scientists to develop a test that will hopefully cut the time it takes to diagnose the new swine flu strain from a few days to a few hours.

Researchers in Hong Kong played a big role in discovering and determining how to treat SARS—a separate deadly virus that spread rapidly in 2003, killing more than 900 people. The island was the second hardest hit after mainland China.

Thomas Tsang, controller for Hong Kong's Center for Health Protection, said the government and the territory's universities are jointly developing the rapid swine flu test using genetic information on the virus from the World Health Organization. Such data is shared with designated flu laboratories worldwide.

"We will look at the information, including its genetic makeup, and we can produce a test correspondingly," Tsang said in Hong Kong.

Dr. Malik Peiris of Hong Kong University, one of the researchers and also the professor who discovered the SARS virus, said he expected the test to be ready within a week.

"It's fairly clear cut," Peiris said. "We have done this many times with many other viruses so I don't really see this being a major problem."

Tsang said the test will be based on a standard laboratory procedure called PCR, or polymerase chain reaction, which is already used to diagnose dozens of other infections. The process can find bits of genetic material that are unique to the virus, then reproduce them in large quantities for easy identification.

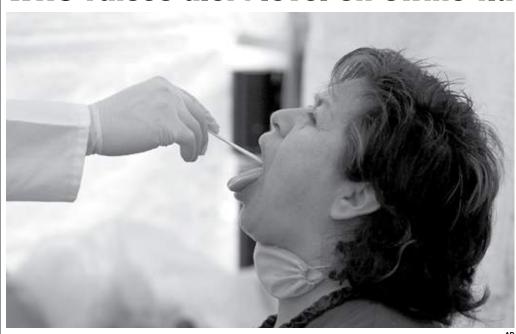
Sri Lanka to stop airstrikes, shelling of rebels

Myanmar opposition meets on next year's election

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)— Myanmar's military government tightened security as the political party of detained prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi gathered Tuesday to discuss next year's planned election. Attendees at the meeting will consider proposals for the 2010 elections, but might not decide about whether to take part, party spokesman Nyan Win said. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy maintains that the polling will take place under a constitution aimed at ensuring the military's domination of politics. The document also has clauses that bar Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi from office. The party has repeatedly urged the government to review the military-backed constitution, saying it was "approved by force" in a referendum last year.

World

WHO raises alert level on swine flu



A health worker checks a woman at a health post in Mexico City, Monday, April 27, 2009.

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The swine flu epidemic entered a dangerous new phase Monday as the death toll climbed in Mexico and the number of suspected cases there and in the

United States nearly doubled. The World Health Organization raised its alert level but stopped short of declaring a global emergency.

The United States advised Americans against most travel to Mexico and ordered stepped up border checks in neighboring states. The European Union health commissioner advised Europeans to avoid nonessential travel both to Mexico and parts of the United States.

The virus poses a potentially grave new threat to the U.S. economy, which was showing tentative early signs of a recovery. A widespread outbreak could batter tourism, food and transportation industries, deepening the recession in the U.S. and possibly worldwide.

The suspected number of deaths rose to 152 in Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak with nearly 2,000 people believed to be infected.

The number of U.S. cases rose to 50, the result of further testing at a New York City school, although none was fatal. Other U.S. cases have been reported in Ohio, Kansas, Texas and California. Worldwide there were 79 confirmed cases, including six in Canada, one in Spain and two in Scotland.

The World Health Organization reported a slightly lower figure, 73. The WHO said it was still awaiting official reports from the U.K. about the Scottish cases, and it was reporting different numbers in the U.S. (40) and Mexico (26) from what those

governments confirmed.

While the total cases were still measured in hundreds, not thousands, Mexican Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova said the epidemic was entering an extremely dangerous phase, with the number of people infected mushrooming even as authorities desperately ramped up defenses.

"We are in the most critical moment of the epidemic. The number of cases will keep rising, so we have to reinforce preventative measures," Cordova said at a news conference.

The WHO raised the alert level to Phase 4, meaning there is sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus causing outbreaks in at least one country.

Its alert system was revised after bird flu in Asia began to spread in 2004, and Monday was the first time it was raised above Phase 3.

Early swine flu victim's widow not told of disease

XONACATLAN, Mexico (AP)—The 39-year-old bricklayer fell ill two weeks ago and became one of the first Mexicans to die of swine flu. But no health worker has come to his home outside Mexico City to offer medicine or ask about the neighbors' pigs.

In fact, Gerardo Leyva Lolis' widow says nobody even told her he died of swine flu until The Associated Press informed her the case had been confirmed by the director of the hospital where he was rushed last week.

The family's experience raises troubling questions about Mexico's response to the epidemic and one of its greatest mysteries: why the disease is killing people in Mexico, but so far nowhere else.

"I don't know what to think," Antonia Cortes Borbolla said Sunday, holding back tears in the two-room wood and cinderblock home

she shared with her husband and their three teenage sons in this rural town of 18,000 located 40 miles outside Mexico City.

neighbors—three Their of whom keep pigs in their yards—had harsher things to say about the failure of Mexican health officials to provide medicine to protect those closest to the swine flu victim.

"If it was (swine flu), why haven't they taken measures to protect the family?" asked Sandra Estrada, adding that she's worried because she visited Leyva while he was sick and her children have been cared for by the dead man's wife.

Epidemiologists need details about victims to locate the source of a viral outbreak and to understand how it spreads. There are antiviral drugs, including Tamiflu, that have been shown to be effective, but they need to be taken within days of the first symptoms. Experts also suggest they be given to those in close contact with flu victims, even if they don't show symptoms, to make sure they don't unwittingly spread the virus.

President Felipe Calderon announced an emergency decree Saturday authorizing health workers to isolate patients and enter and search their homes to combat this flu.

But no such effort has been made with Levva's family. His widow said she has been asked little and told even less since his death on April 20.

The president's office referred all inquiries about the case to the federal health department, where a spokeswoman said she had no information. Victor Torres, assistant epidemiology director at the state health institute, told the AP he needed another day before he could talk about the case.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan president promises change in marriage law

KABUL (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai vowed Monday to change a law critics say legalizes marital rape to remove concerns that it violates human rights. The law, which sparked an international outcry after it was signed last month, says a husband can demand sex with his wife every four days unless she is ill or would be harmed by intercourse. It also regulates when and for what reasons a wife may leave her home alone. Numerous countries condemned the law and President Barack Obama called it "abhorrent," prompting Karzai to suspend the legislation for a judicial review. He said previously the law will be changed, but his comments Monday were his strongest yet against the controversial measure. "Amendments will take place," and the law "will not have any concerns on any account of human rights and especially the rights of the Afghan people," Karzai told reporters at a joint news conference with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Brown said he discussed the law with Karzai.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka agreed to stop firing heavy weapons into the northern war zone to safeguard thousands of civilians trapped there, but resisted growing pressure Monday for a cease-fire in its war with the Tamil Tiger rebels. The rebels accused the government of instantly violating its promise by launching airstrikes from three sides on a village in a densely populated no-fire zone, a pro-guerrilla Web site reported. A flurry of diplomatic activity has so far failed to halt an offensive that has forced the rebels out of the shadow state they once ran in the north of this Indian Ocean island nation and left them cornered in a tiny coastal strip. U.S., Indian and European officials have expressed growing concern for the estimated 50,000 ethnic Tamil civilians still trapped in the war

zone amid U.N. reports that nearly 6,500 noncombatants have already been killed in the recent offensive.

Campus Life

Sorene Maratita makes the most of her reign

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

eigning Miss Marianas Universe 2008 Sorene Maratita shares with Tribune Saipan thoughts about being a youth ambassador for the CNMI. In her journey to the national competition in September, she aspires to bring honor and glory back to her countrymen.

Saipan Tribune: Since Day 1 of your reign as Miss Marianas Universe 2008, what significant adjustments have you made as an ordinary individual or member of the community?

Answer: As Miss Marianas, I have used my title to become more involved with today's youth. I've also had the opportunity to meet public officials and other distinguished members of our community in hopes of promoting health awareness and its importance, and efforts to gain the public's involvement in community activities.

ST: So far, what programs and activities have you launched or initiated to help community members?

A: A program I am currently working on is the Youth Advisory Panel, which consists of students from the PSS and is spearheaded by the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Rita A. Sablan. The Y.A.P. focuses on finding solutions to issues concerning PSS students, with the hope of reaching out to at-risk youths as well as encourage youth leadership.

Other recent activities I've been involved with is the opportunity to participate in the Flame Tree Arts Festival during its opening ceremony and Parade of Cultures, the proclamation signing for both World Aids Month and Breast Cancer Month, including Reading with the Stars at Oleai Elementary School and being a Celebrity Bagger at Joeten DanDan Shopping Center. I've also been involved in numerous civic and charitable events.

ST: The Stellar Marianas had announced the suspension of the pageant beginning this year. How are you going to make your reign—being the last—more memorable and important to the CNMI?

A: Although Stellar Marianas has already made this announcement publicly, I believe that because of the economic constraints, the organization needs time to regroup and to start fresh. The organization cannot function with just one or two or even three people. They need to work as a "whole" to move forward. Pageants have not been ruled out completely at this point. However, we hope that more people who are willing to devote their time and efforts in bringing the organization back should come together to bring their ideas and talents to the next level

So far, my involvement in the community has brought memories to last a lifetime and as the current Miss Marianas I will continue to do my best to fulfill my responsibilities as an ambassador of the CNMI. With the community's support, I hope to accomplish my platform of healthy living and I continue to encourage the public to be more involved in activities such as the Beautify CNMI, Marianas March Against Cancer, CNMI Chapter of the American Red Cross, just to name a few.

ST: What characteristics and traits do you think would make you win a national pageant and how are you going to represent the **CNMI** in global competitions?

A: The characteristics I believe that sets me apart from the rest of my competitors in national pageants is the uniqueness of my cultural background and heritage. I carry the unique beauty of a Pacific Islander and that the inner beauty I possess exudes not only through physical attributes but through the warm hospitable traits Pacific Islanders share.

I personally believe that true beauty lies within one's self and through these characteristics, I believe that this will make me stand out from all the rest.

ST: Do you think the Marianas is ready to compete in international pageant contests? Why or why not?

A: The Marianas has been competing in international pageants for over 30 years now. We have always been ready to compete in any pageant and I am proud to say that the Marianas has won prestigious titles at the Miss International pageant and Miss South Pacific pageant respectively. I believe that the women of the CNMI have all the potential and ability to represent our islands abroad as well as any other region of the world.

ST: What can you offer, as reigning queen, to motivate young women to get involved in beauty pageants?

A: The advice I would like to offer young women who seek some kind of life-changing experience is to take advantage of this opportunity. I offer my undivided support and encouragement, and I hope that, with encouragement and support from their families, they are able to find the confidence within themselves that I believe they possess.

Hopefully young women will see this as a lifetime opportunity to promote themselves in community involvement and uphold the knowledge that even one individual can make a huge difference.

ST: What legacy would you like to leave with the CNMI and its people?

A: I would like to educate our people about the positive rewards of hard work and striving for all that one believes in. The saying I live by is "Success is not being the best at something, but accepting failure and finding the power to prevail." What this truly means to me is that I believe that with confidence in yourself and determination to achieve any goal, you can make your dreams come true.

Miss Marianas Universe 2008 Sorene

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The CNMI Multiple School Unit High school JROTC Annual Drill Competition took place this weekend at the Army Reserve Center here on Saipan. The five CNMI JROTC Battalions from Rota, Tinian and Saipan public high schools met to duel it out to see who's the best of the best in precision

The JROTC cadets have been rehearsing and practicing their drill moves for several months to prepare for this final event.

drill competition.

There were six competitive events: unarmed regulation drill, armed regulation drill, color guard regulation, color guard saber, armed exhibition and unarmed exhibition.

It was quite an event with over 350 cadets and hundreds of family members watching as the competition unfolded. Among, the onlookers were PSS Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, who was the guest speaker at the event. Her words of encouragement electrified the competing cadets to do their best and show off their training.

Also, Lt. Colonel Robert Gay, who is the CNMI JROTC (MSU) director of Army Instruction and oversees all of the five public JROTC programs, delivered inspiring remarks to the anxious cadets waiting to compete.

The trophies were later passed out by Dr. Sablan and Board of Education

350 JROTC cadets compete at Reserve Center



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Emotions run high as Marianas High School emerged as the overall winner during Saturday's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico. Saipan Souther High School bagged the second place, while Rota High School was third placer.

member Tanya King, along with Lt. Colonel Gay.

Marianas High School JROTC emerged as the overall champion by taking three first place trophies—in unarmed exhibition drill, armed exhibition drill, and the first place overall trophy for most points awarded.

Second was Saipan Southern High School JROTC, which received two first place trophies in armed regulation drill, unarmed overall trophy for points awarded. Rota High School took first place in saber color guard competition and third place trophy overall for most points awarded. Kagman High School won the armed color guard first place trophy and fourth place overall trophy for points awarded. Tinian High School took home the fifth place overall trophy with points awarded.

Special thanks go out to the Reserve Center, commanded by Maj. Greg Sablan, who provided the facility and six evaluators from the Reserve Center: CW2 Mandel, chief evaluator and SPC Alex Sablan, SPC Vicente Sablan, Sgt. Pedro Towai, SPC Ricardo Quichocho, SPC Chuai Chen and one member of the U.S. Army recruiting command, SFC Neemia Vaiagae from Guam.

The Army JROTC instructors were from the following schools; MHS Capt. Ernest Torres and SFC Pedro Gloria, SSHS Command Sergeant Maj. Leonardo Rabago, Sgt. Maj. Jack Kiyoshi and SFC Tony Lukeala, Rota Sgt. Maj. Herman Atalig and 1st Sgt. ED Tabanar, KHS Master Sgt. James Burke and Master Sgt. Juan Salas, and from Tinian, 1st Sgt. Frank Deleon Guerrero and SFC Roger Thompson. (MSG Burke)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009 19

Life & Style

Branding Perez: Polarizing blogger has big goals

NEW YORK (AP)—Perez Hilton is still poking fun at celebrities. But as a blogger, radio host, author and now highly publicized advocate of gay rights, he's also become one—and not just as a famous person, but a powerful and wide-reaching brand. Still, Hilton, whose recent 31st birthday party drew the likes of the Jonas Brothers and Christina Aguilera, seems uneasy with the C-word.

His preferred title: Entertainer.

"I don't consider myself a celebrity because for every two people that like me, there's probably 3 1/2 that don't," he said by phone from Los Angeles. "And I don't care if you don't like me—I just care if you still read my Web site."

And Hilton clearly likes to stir the pot: As if being asked to judge the April 18 Miss USA pageant wasn't enough to raise his profile, Hilton went for a bigger media blitz by asking Miss California Carrie Prejean about same sex marriage. Prejean's response—that "marriage should be between a man and a woman"—became one of the hottest topics on the talk-show circuit.

Hilton, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, made the rounds on CNN's "Larry King," NBC's "Today" and other major outlets. He defended his question as fair and relevant. Prejean stands by her remarks; meanwhile, Hilton stands by his, which include calling the beauty queen a B-word.

Their beef launched dozens of online video responses and was spoofed in a skit on Jimmy Fallon's talk show, ending with Fallon brokering a peace treaty between stand-ins for Prejean and Perez.

"I said she was a dumb (bleep)," he said. "Well, you know what? What she said to me in that answer was that I am a second-class citizen that doesn't deserve full equality under the law."

Hilton's blog has decried Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in his home state of California, and revealed the sexual preference of several celebrities who eventually announced they are gay.

"I've always considered myself an activist—even when I was outing people, I did it because I believe in equality. ... If I'm gonna talk about a heterosexual celebrity that's having a secret relationship with someone else, I should do the same thing with a homosexual celebrity," he avowed.

But he's not the spokesman for the gay community, he said. He's just doing what he knows best: Being Perez.

The strategy has served him well: His over-the-top alter ego and celeb-mocking have resulted in an explosion of page views. Love him or loathe him, Hilton emerged as heavy competition for major news organizations, and paved the way for celeb-driven sites like TMZ.

"His blog captured the mood of the world—which is a little snarky, a little cynical, a little provocative, a little tongue-incheek," said Howard Bragman, Hollywood publicist and author of "Where's My Fifteen Minutes?: Get Your Company, Your Cause, or Yourself the Recognition You Deserve."

Bragman said Hilton nailed the "right tone at the right time—his instincts were very, very good. And a lot of those things that people were feeling, he was able to put online."

PerezHilton.com attracted 2.2 million unique visitors in the U.S. and 3.9 million globally last month, according to tracking firm comScore Inc. Henry Copeland, who runs advertising for Hilton, won't comment on his earnings. But he said that when advertisers take over the site—like promoters of the Anne Hathaway-Kate Hudson film "Bride Wars" did recentlv—the self-described "Oueen of All Media" could potentially make tens of thousands of dollars per day.

"It all is a blessing because I didn't expect any of this," Hilton said. "I started my blog for fun. I didn't think you could make money from it."

Hilton, who insists money is a low priority, has aimed to expand his brand from the start. He wakes before dawn each morning to do his syndicated radio show, which airs in more than 75 markets. He released a book this year called "Red Carpet Suicide: A Survival Guide on Keeping Up With the Hiltons." He appears in numerous TV spots, and would like to get his own show.

More than anything, he loves music, often adding plugs for music artists he likes. He has hosted concerts in New York, Liverpool, U.K., Toronto and, most recently, Austin, Texas, where he lured the star power of Kanye West to perform at his party at the South By Southwest festival.

Hilton is also an avid user of Twitter, and has amassed nearly 700,000 followers on the micro-blogging site. Last week he tweeted about Lady Gaga—someone he said he caught onto long ago—and her "MIND-BLOWING acoustic" version of her song "Paparazzi."

For all his pursuits, Hilton keeps his goal simple: Media domination.

"I want to be like Oprah, only bigger," he said, without a trace of irony.

Hilton, who ranks No. 1 on Forbes' list of the 25 most famous Web celebs for the second year in a row, admires the rise of Ryan Seacrest, who leveraged his hosting gig on "American Idol" to build an entertainment empire, and desires the same for himself. And like Seacrest, he keeps a busy schedule: "I work really really hard—I work harder than anyone I know. It could have been really easy for me to get lazy or coast."

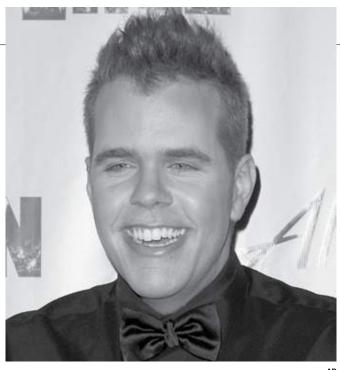
Bragman said Hilton could live out his ambition "by being authentic, by not selling out, by being real—because people have amazing authenticity detectors in this world.

We know what's real and we

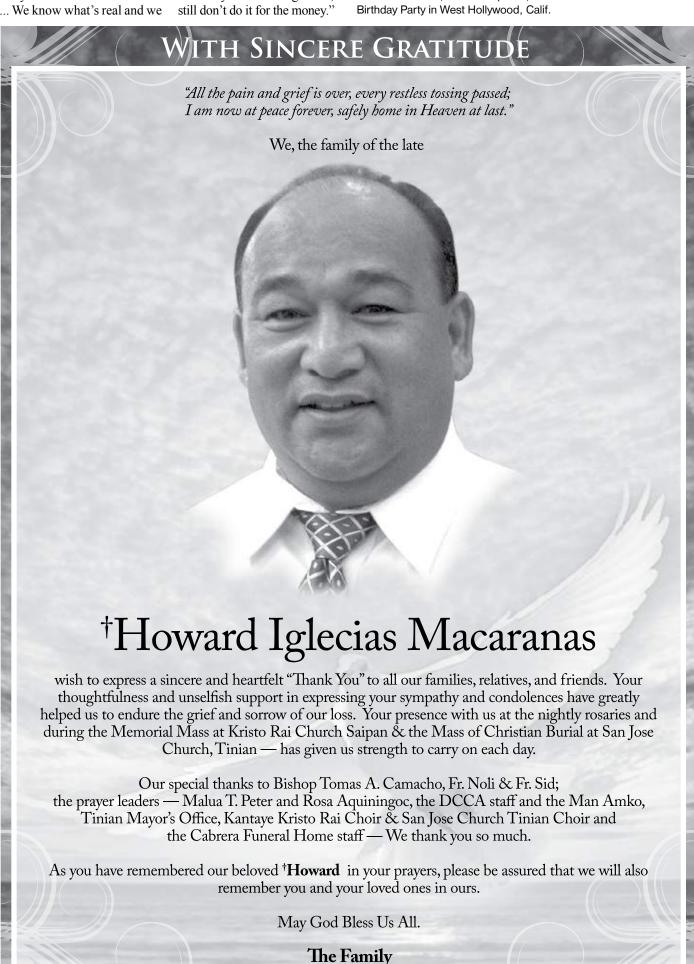
know what's not, and we can smell sellouts. And as long as he sticks to what he does and what got him there and what he believes, and he expands in a controlled way and doesn't try to do too much too soon."

Does Hilton worry about keeping his brand afloat—say, amid a crippling recession?

"It definitely is affecting me for sure—but I don't care! I have a business manager," he said. "I let him handle all the finances and all that stuff. I'm too busy working to be worried about any of those things. Plus, I still don't do it for the money."



In this March 28, 2009 file photo, Perez Hilton arrives at his 31st Birthday Party in West Hollywood, Calif



Piano great Zimerman says he won't return to US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Piano virtuoso Krystian Zimerman, who had enthralled classical music fans on his most recent U.S. tour, suddenly enraged many of them this week when he announced from the stage that he is so unhappy with the United States that he will not perform in the country again.

Zimerman's announcement came near the end of his performance Sunday night at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the last stop on the Polish-born musician's current U.S. tour. A story posted on the Los Angeles Times' Web site Monday said he blamed U.S. foreign policy, but his manager, Mary Pat Buerkle, told The Associated Press his disenchantment with the country goes beyond that.

"He has talked for the last couple years about his touring in the States and of not coming back for a while," Buerkle said Monday. "I think that there are many contributing factors to that decision, and I don't think it's appropriate to say it's all political."

Zimerman, one of the few pianists who brings his own Steinway with him on tour, has said security workers at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport destroyed one piano in recent years and ripped the keyboard out of another.

According to the Times, Zimerman was about to begin his final piece, Karol Szymanowski's "Variations on a Polish Folk Theme," when he turned to the audience and in a quiet but angry tone accused the

United States of wanting to dominate the world.

"Get your hands off of my country," the Times quoted him, saying he also made reference to the U.S. military detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Several people walked out, although those who remained gave him a standing ovation at the end of his performance.

Buerkle said she didn't know when Zimerman might be willing to return. She declined to reveal specifically what he was unhappy about.

In a 2006 interview with Vermont's Barre Montpelier Times Argus, Zimerman said rampedup border security has made it harder for him to bring his piano into the country.

"When people see a big black case, which smells of all kinds of chemicals, they go for it," he said.

In recent years he has taken to leaving a piano shell in the United States, carrying the instrument's innards with him and then assembling it here.

Zimerman, 52, has been described by allmusic. com as "one of the most sensitive and controversial concert pianists to emerge in the latter half of the 20th century."

He was still a teenager when he won the 1975 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, and has won acclaim since for his interpretation of the works of Chopin, Beethoven and others.

Izzie dishes about 'Grey's' wedding on Web site

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Meredith Grey and Derek Shepherd should consider a really big wedding cake. A Web site with details about their nuptials and an invitation to RSVP for the event drew some 1,400 replies in the first 24 hours.

Not bad for a fictional couple.

on-again, off-again "Grey's Anatomy" duo known as "Mer-Der" are on for a May wedding, and series creator Shonda Rhimes enlisted the TV show's staff and ABC's marketing department to make the most of the occasion.

The online site, mirroring those set up by real-life couples, celebrates the pair played by Ellen Pompeo and Patrick Dempsey. Pal Izzie Stevens (costar Katherine Heigl) is credited with creating and maintaining

The idea popped into Rhimes' head when scenes were being filmed in which Izzie shoots photos of Meredith in her wedding dress.

"I said, 'It should feel like a real wedding Web site," said Rhimes, who knows about such things—her sister, Sandie Bailey, works for celebrity wedding and party planner Mindy Weiss.

The faux couple's site, built within theknot.com, includes categories labeled "The Couple," "The Proposal" and "The



In this image released by ABC, Ellen Pompeo wears a wedding dress in a scene from the ABC series, "Grey's Anatomy," airing Thursdays (at 9:00 p.m. EDT.)

Dresses," with photos and Izzie's comments.

"I know. I know. I secretly never thought it would happen either. But it's real. ... This is going to be the most magical, romantic, breath-taking wedding you've ever seen. I promise," reads her welcome.

The Web site, which came

together quickly after Rhimes proposed it and was up last Thursday night, fits in with ABC's approach to its shows, said Michael Benson, executive vice president of marketing for ABC Entertainment.

"We love to create other experiences that relate to the show and that don't break the fourth wall," Benson said. Within the first day, without promotion, the page had more than 42,000 unique views.

There's a gift registry page. but don't rush to the mall. Visitors are invited to donate to the American Academy of Neurology Foundation, American Skin Association and Alzheimer's Association.

The charities were selected because they have a connection to story lines that have been key to the drama, Benson said.

The Web site says the wedding date is May 14, but will the couple really say "I do," given their-and the show's-twists and turns?

"I've said this time and again-you may be surprised at the way we bring it off, but at the end of the season viewers will be very happy with where Meredith and Derek are," said Rhimes, known for keeping her plots secret.

Then comes this tease: "I've seen the wedding and it's quite beautiful," she said.

'9 to 5' musical snags record 15 Drama Desk nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—''9 to 5" has set a Drama Desk record and it hasn't even won any awards yet.

The Broadway musical based on the 1980 hit movie received 15 Drama Desk nominations Monday, breaking the old record of 14 nominations, held by five other shows including "The Producers" and "Hairspray."

"9 to 5" features a score by Dolly Parton, who received two nominations—one for her music and one for the lyrics of the show. It will compete for best musical of the 2008-2009 New York theater season against "Billy Elliot," "Liza's at the Palace ...," "Shrek," "The Story of place May 17 at Lincoln Center.

My Life" and "Fela!"

Best-play nominations went to "Body Awareness" by Annie Baker, "Becky Shaw" by Gina Gionfriddo, "reasons to be pretty" by Neil LaBute, "Ruined" by Lynn Nottage, "Fifty Words" by Michael Weller and "Lady" by Craig Wright.

"9 to 5" had not officially opened when the nominations were announced. Nominators were let into preview performances.

The Drama Desk, which was founded in 1949, honors both Broadway and off-Broadway productions.

The awards show will take

Fox sticks with schedule instead of Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox became the first broadcast network to turn down a request by President Barack Obama for time, opting to show its drama "Lie to Me" on Wednesday instead of the president's prime-time news conference.

Fox will direct viewers interested in the news conference to Fox News Channel and the Fox Business Network, which will both carry it. ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC and CNBC are all carrying the 8 p.m. EDT event, on Obama's 100th day in office.

This will be Obama's third prime-time news conference as president, a schedule that has caused some private grumbling among network executives. Carrying a news conference

works an estimated \$10 million- work is in more homes, cable's plus in lost advertising revenue. Fox News Channel tradition-

Obama

Yet with an economy in distress, two wars and now a swine flu outbreak, the pressure on networks to agree to Obama's request as a public service is enormous.

Executives at Fox, owned by News Corp., would not comment on the decision Monday. It's not without precedent for the network; Fox didn't carry a prime-time speech by President George W. Bush in November 2001 despite a request from the White House.

"I can't imagine it was politically motivated," said Shelly Palmer, industry analyst and host of "MediaBytes," a daily

show about technology and the media. "I'm assuming it was financially motivated."

The news conference comes at the start of a ratings "sweeps" months, where viewership is watched closely to set local advertising rates. Not only will Fox keep its advertising for the hour, it will offer the only broadcast entertainment program, potentially giving a boost to the new series "Lie to Me," about a crime-fighting expert who can spot liars. "American Idol" follows "Lie to Me" on

the schedule.

The Fox broadcast network was the most likely to have made this decision. Unlike ABC, CBS and NBC, Fox does not have its own news division to analyze the event.

costs the four broadcast net- Even though the broadcast netally gets more viewers for its coverage of these events than the Fox network.

> An executive at one of the three other broadcasters, who asked for anonymity because the conversations were private, said that network's executives had expressed concern to the White House about the frequency of prime-time news conferences and the financial sacrifice they were making in carrying the event. The executive said it was hoped the administration would show more flexibility in working with networks to find the best times to schedule the events.

Snoop Dogg takes stand in civil trial

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Snoop Dogg told jurors on Monday that he didn't hit a man suing him for millions of dollars with a brass-knuckle microphone during a melee at one of his 2005 concerts.

The rapper (real name: Calvin Broadus) took the stand for nearly two hours and denied that he hit Richard Monroe Jr. during the show near Seattle. Broadus said he went back to his tour bus immediately after Monroe jumped on stage and was tackled by security.

Broadus described the people who were on stage during a melee in which Monroe claims he was seriously injured. He identified several people near the struggle as being affiliated with The Game, a fellow rapper who toured with Snoop on the "How the West Was Won" tour.

The often-playful entertainer was mostly serious while on the stand, but did include a few moments of levity while detailing who he saw on stage in a frame-by-frame analysis. When a face on a screen shot proved difficult to make out, Broadus told his attorney, "Man! I can't it out—a lot of bald heads."

For the most part, he unflinchingly identi-

fied the performers and security personnel who can be seen on the video struggling around Monroe.

Monroe's attorneys challenged Broadus' clear recollection of the incident from the screen shots and attempted to question the rapper about drug use the night of the concert. A judge rejected that request.

Broadus, for his part, said the shots shown in court on Monday were clearer than ones he was shown during a deposition.

Monroe sued in 2006, claiming he was seriously injured after Broadus and members of his entourage and security detail struck him and poured alcohol on him during a performance of the hit "Gin and Juice." He sued for \$22 million; a 12-person jury will decide whether he receives any money.

Monroe testified on Friday that he woke up backstage, naked and in a pool of blood after the altercation. He said he was responding to what he thought was a call for audience members to join the performers on stage.

Broadus' attorneys have argued that Monroe was wrong to come on stage and that the rappers' security was reacting because they



In this Jan. 19, 2009 file photo, Snoop Dogg is shown in Las Vegas, Nev.

thought Snoop was being attacked. Broadus told jurors essentially the same

thing on Monday.

"The best way for the injuries not to have occurred (was) for him to stay in his seat and enjoy the show like the rest of the fans," Broadus said.

Rivers defends daughter on 'Celebrity Apprentice'

NEW YORK (AP)—Think twice before crossing Melissa Rivers—her mother might just step in and chew you out.

Joan Rivers unleashed an earful of insults after Donald Trump fired her daughter on "The Celebrity Apprentice." Rivers' targets: poker champ Annie Duke and Playboy pinup Brande (BRAND-ee) Roderick.

Melissa Rivers, who appeared with her mom on the NBC show, claimed the two formed an alliance against her. She called them "pit vipers."

Joan Rivers launched into mama-bear mode, calling Roderick a "stupid blonde" and Duke a "white trash" poker player. She called the duo "a Nazi and a follower.

NBC representative Amanda Ruisi didn't immediately return phone and e-mail messages seeking comment. Donald Trump could not immediately be reached.



In this Jan. 29, 2009 file photo, comedian Joan Rivers signs her book "Men Are Stupid And They Like Big Boobs" at the Lincoln Square Barnes & Noble bookstore in New York.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt wed—for real



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt made their union legal.

A spokesman for the couple says the reality TV stars were legally wed Saturday during a ceremony at a Pasadena church that was filmed by MTV.

Montag and Pratt announced their elopement on a magazine cover in November but later acknowledged that the impromptu ceremony they had in Mexico was symbolic and not legally binding. The couple appeared before a deputy commissioner at a Beverly Hills courthouse in December, but didn't say "I do."

Spokesman Rick Rhodes said Saturday's wedding was "100 percent legal."

Montag, who is 22, and her 25year-old husband are set to appear on the NBC show "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" in June.

In this March 28, 2009 file photo, Spencer Pratt, right, and Heidi Montag arrive at Perez Hilton's 31st Birthday Party in West Hollywood, Calif.

Director praises grieving Neeson's professionalism

NEW YORK (AP)—The director of an upcoming Liam Neeson movie said Monday that Neeson showed remarkable professionalism in returning to work so soon after the death of wife Natasha Richardson.

Atom Egoyan praised Neeson for returning to the Toronto set of "Chloe" the week after Richardson's death. Neeson came back for a couple days' work to complete his scenes for the thriller directed by Egoyan.

"He was very committed to the film and finishing his role, and he didn't need to come back that soon," Egoyan said in an interview for his new drama "Adoration," which opens May 8. "But he really thought it would be best

for the film, and it was just such an unspeakably generous thing for him to do. And he's an extraordinary, extraordinary person."

Neeson's work on the film had been on hold after Richardson sustained a head injury in a fall March 16 during a skiing lesson in Quebec. Richardson died two days later.

Egoyan said it's a tough adjustment for Neeson now that he is raising his and Richardson's two sons alone.

"He's doing better, but I think it's going to be really difficult for Liam because... Natasha was really involved in raising the boys," Egoyan said. "But there's a lot of people around him. There's a lot of support around him."



In this Jan. 19, 2009 file photo, actor Liam Neeson attends the Sundance Five Minutes in Heaven premiere in Park City, Utah.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities have allowed the son of Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett a brief visit with his ailing mother. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Whitmore says a judge allowed 24-year-old Redmond O'Neal to leave jail briefly on Saturday to visit the cancer-striken Fawcett. O'Neal's family paid roughly \$1,300 so that deputies could supervise the visit. O'Neal has been jailed since April 5, when deputies say he was caught with heroin at a jail facility north of Los Angeles. He faces two important court dates this week, when judges could allow him to re-enter rehab. O'Neal said in court earlier his month that Fawcett, who is battling anal cancer that has spread to her liver, weighed only 86 pounds. Fawcett's representative disputes the claim.

Farrah Fawcett receives visit from son

Injury causes Rycroft to miss 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Melissa Rycroft was the top scorer on "Dancing With the Stars" last week, but she was absent from Monday's show. Host Tom Bergeron says Rycroft sustained a painful rib injury that prevented her from performing. Her professional partner, Tony Dovolani, said she also suffered complications from treatment for the injury. The couple was judged on a rehearsal performance and earned 21 out of 30 points for their jive. Former contestant Steve-O was also judged on a rehearsal performance when he hurt himself early in this season's competition. Doctors told Rycroft she has a hairline fracture but can continue competing on the ABC dance-off.

Tenn. road named after rocker Jerry Lee Lewis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Jerry Lee Lewis, the piano-pounding rock 'n' roller known as "The Killer," has been honored by Tennessee lawmakers who voted to name a stretch of road in his honor. A proposal unanimously approved Monday evening by the House designates a stretch of Getwell Road in Shelby County as the Jerry

Lee Lewis Highway. The section runs from the Mississippi state line to Interstate 240. Lewis, well-known for his hit "Great Balls of Fire," said "it's not every day you get a street named after you. It's a great honor." A companion bill unanimously passed the Senate earlier this month and now goes to Gov. Phil Bredesen for his consideration. Sun Records, the label credit with discovering Lewis back in the 1950s, is based in Memphis.

'Impressionism' set to close May 10 on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—"Impressionism" is fading to black. The Broadway play starring Jeremy Irons and Joan Allen will close May 10 after a shortened, 56-performance run at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. "Impressionism" opened to mostly negative reviews last month after a troubled preview period. During previews, the play by Michael Jacobs was condensed to one act instead of two, and the plot clarified. It concerns the relationship between an art gallery owner and a photographer.

Ohio city hands out tickets for free Leno show

WILMINGTON, Ohio (AP)—Western Ohio residents hoping laughter is the best medicine for down times will have two chances to seek treatment from funnyman Jay Leno when he visits in May. A representative of the production company distributing tickets for a free show in Wilmington says all 4,000 tickets have been handed out and the comedian has scheduled a second performance. Leno will perform his "Comedy Stimulus" show May 10 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Roberts Centre. Production company spokeswoman Suzy Kappaz says 4,000 tickets for the later show will be available at the center beginning Tuesday. The area has been rocked by thousands of layoffs at a nearby airport. Residents who sought tickets say they hope Leno will help boost local morale.

Middle-aged man questions future with younger woman

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 49 and have been dating a 26-year-old woman for about five months. We have a great time together and have talked about love and being in a long-term relationship. However, I am afraid that I am setting her up for an unhappy and disappointing midlife as I may require adult care about the same time her parents do.

She becomes upset when I try to bring the subject up and asserts that she's willing to accept the responsibilities associated



with my golden years because she loves me. I'm not sure how much of her response is rooted in her love for me and how much may be the result of a lack of life experience. If I stay with her, am I being selfish?

OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER DAD IN MICHIGAN

DEAR OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER DAD: Not having met you, I can't be sure. How are the genetics in your family? Did your parents live to a ripe old age without falling apart? How would you feel to be raising teenagers when you're in your 60s? Do you think you can keep up with them—and her?

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to love. I have heard of many devoted May-September marriages. But regardless of age, both parties should go into it with their eyes wide open—and that includes the two of you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old woman who has always wanted to live near the ocean. I recently had the good fortune to visit Australia and loved it so much I started looking for work while I was there. I have been feeling depressed since returning home knowing I have found someplace I would love to spend the rest

My problem is I am engaged, and my future husband doesn't share my enthusiasm for the ocean. We live in Colorado, and he loves the mountains. He never traveled as a boy and has no idea how addicting it can be.

I love him, and he fulfills all I could hope for in a husband. But I don't know if he can share the same love for a place that I can't get out of my mind. Is this relationship doomed?

WANDERLUST IN LITTLETON

DEAR WANDERLUST: Only you can answer that. You are 20 and define yourself as someone who has wanderlust. Before you commit to marriage to someone who may not share your spirit of adventure, you owe it to yourself and to him to see more of the world and get it out of your system. Remember the movie "The Wizard of Oz"? It took seeing the Emerald City to truly appreciate Kansas.

DEAR ABBY: I have a co-worker I'll call "Linda" who is constantly on the phone making personal calls. She is chronically late to work and never gets her work caught up. My problem is she just told me she has listed me as a reference on dozens of

I take pride in being honest, so how do I come up with positive things to say about her if any potential employers call?

job applications!

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE, CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

DEAR CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: Linda should have asked you for permission before listing you as a reference. Tell her she must stop doing it immediately.

Should anyone call you to ask about her, tell the person that you are her co-worker and the dates that you worked together, but nothing more. If they want more details, they should be referred to the office manager.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in

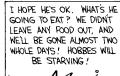
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

WHEN IS THIS DUMB WEDDING GOING TO BE OVER?! I DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE.

THIS WOULD BE A LOT MORE FUN IF HOBBES WAS HERE. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LEFT HIM AT HOME







By Bryan Basset

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



Adam@home



I JUST WANTED A STRAIGHT ANSWER ON

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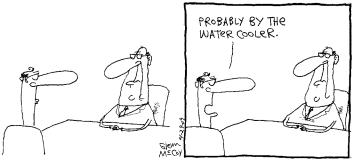
1927



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



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28 Hotel offering 31 Historic times 33 Clergyman's address **35** See

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20

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andre Agassi, 39; Uma Thurman, 39; Michelle Pfeiffer, 51: Jerry Seinfeld, 55

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions stand in the way of progress. You can change your course to better suit your needs and, although not everyone will approve of your decisions this year, you must look at the big picture and protect what you value the most. Your strength of character will lead you to victory. Your numbers are 5, 9, 15, 19, 23, 26, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems at home will erupt if you have been secretive or intent on doing something that no one else wants to take part in. Emotions will be hard to control and will likely affect your efficiency.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will gain power, respect and knowledge by being a participant. Don't let someone's advances or changes of plans spin you in the wrong direction. Set your goals and stick to them until they are complete. **OOOO**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on the future and consider whether or not to make a change. Someone you care for will influence your decision. Don't leap without checking out what's actually being offered. OOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't lock yourself into something you probably cannot finish. You can expect someone you trusted to disappoint you, causing emotional stress. Allowing someone to get to you will cause an impulsive chain reaction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a serious look at your financial situation and how vou are currently earning a living. You can come up with a viable solution if you are practical in your approach. Baby steps coupled with your charm and ingenuity will help you win

back whatever you have lost. OOO VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lending, borrowing, donating or anything that has to do with your cash flow must be kept in check. You will stand a better chance if you barter your services. Be smart as well as forceful

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): As soon as you let someone else take over for you, things will go amuck. You will intuitively know which route is best for you. Passionate talks and interactions with people with similar goals will help you move forward. 🗪

and you will get what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need to get away somewhere peaceful to figure things out without interruption. Change is overdue but you need a plan. A partner may confuse you at first but, if you listen carefully, you will realize that maybe your time with this

person is up. **OOOOO** SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make some excellent improvements to your living arrangements. Love

is looking very good if you want to make some special plans for two. An epiphany will change the way you do things and get you thinking about where you want to hang your hat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may feel a little disconcerted about a part-



IN ASTROLOGY





you want if you go about it the right way. Compromising will make your life easier. ••• AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have so many realizations coming to mind that it may get a little muddled. Write things down. Don't let anyone else make a

nership you are wrestling with. If you talk matters

through, you will realize you can both have what

decision for you. You want to move forward with a clear conscience. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have to avoid conversations with friends, neighbors and colleagues that will lead to misunderstandings and arguments.

Keep your religious and political views a secret. Don't believe everything you hear; get a second opinion. Birthday Baby: You have a strong presence that commands attention and results in leadership. You

are compassionate and loyal. You are conservative but can embrace change when necessary.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4	9					
		6		2				
		1			8			
		3				1		
		2	6	5	3	9	4	
5 6				7				
6		7	5	9	1	4	8	3 5
	8							5
		5	3	8	7	6	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Voctordov's CHDOVII Answer

testerday's Suduku Allswer									
7	2	1	8	6	5	9	4	3	
9	5	6	7	4	3	1	2	8	
8	3	4	2	9	1	6	7	5	
6	8	3	1	5	2	4	9	7	
2	4	7	6	8	9	5	3	1	
5	1	თ	3	7	4	2	8	6	
1	9	2	5	3	8	7	6	4	
3	7	5	4	2	6	8	1	9	
4	6	8	9	1	7	3	5	2	

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell

LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS										Solution: 8 letters				
Р	В	Е	B	L	С	S	F	S	S	Т	S	U	R	Т
E	Α	(U)	L	L	Ε	Α	Υ	Ε	U	D	С	Α	R	D
E	S	R	0	Р	M	٧	R	Α	Ν	С	Н	Ν	1	Α
(Y)	Ν	0	T	I	U	U	Α	Ε	D	F	О	L	L	I
Т	0	0	L	Ν	Τ	0	S	R	0	1	0	F	Α	L
E	I	Υ	Н	С	Ε	Т	С	U	T	S	L	В	U	Υ
C	Т	Μ	I	Р	1	R	Ν	Α	М	1	S	0	G	R
N	Α	Ρ	Ε	F	Ε	D	С	Α	М	Ε	L	Т	Н	Α
Α	S	0	Ε	Α	Α	[1	Р	Ν	М	О	Ε	М	Т
L	R	Ν	Τ	Т	Ν	Ν	0	С	٧	Α	٧	Χ	1	1
Α	Ε	[I	U	Τ	R	Ε	Α	D	1	Ε	Т	W	L
В	٧	0	М	Α	Т	Ε	Ε	М	L	L	S	Ν	R	[
E	Ν	Μ	I	Α	D	٧	1	С	Ε	S	ı	I	1	M
C	0	Ν	Ν	Ε	С	Т]	О	Ν	G	1	F	Т	S
С	С	Т	R	Α	Р	Α	R	Е	Ν	Т	S	G	Ε	S

Absence, Advice, Apart, Balance, Benefits, Busy, Card, Care, Close, Communication, Connection, Conversation, Couple, Creative, Daily, E-mails, Family, Focus, Foundation, Gifts, Holidays, Important, Laugh, Life, Live, Love, Maintain, Meet, Military, Parents, Partner, Phone, Pictures, Read, School, Send, Solid, Text, Time, Travel, Trust, Visits, Write

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009 **23**

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies for representatives from the island of Saipan.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Humanities Council.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

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3-Liner with picture	\$45					
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Lakers close out Jazz with 107-96 win

Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are moving on in the NBA playoffs—as if that was really in doubt. With Bryant making everything from 3-pointers to

a fadeaway jumper while falling on his backside, the Lakers ran away from the Utah Jazz on Monday night, winning 107-96 to finish the opening-round series in five games.

Bryant scored 31 points and Lamar Odom had 26 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who earned several days of rest before meeting the winner of the Portland-Houston series.

The Lakers didn't want to have to go back to Salt Lake City, the site of their Game 3 collapse and their Game 4 bounceback.

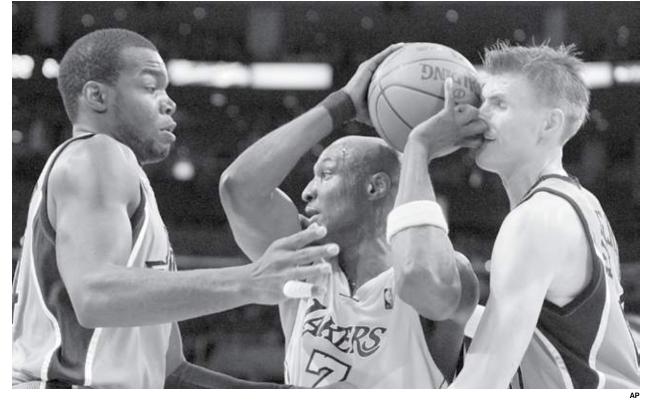
Although it wasn't the most artistic game at times, the Lakers got the shots to fall when they needed them most.

If there was any question that this was going to be the Lakers' night on their home court, Bryant answered that in the closing seconds of the first half.

He drove the lane and passed to Pau Gasol. The ball was batted loose and Bryant grabbed it, turned and sank a fadeaway jumper as he fell on his rear end, giving the Lakers a 56-43 halftime lead.

By late in the third quarter, the Lakers were toying with the Jazz. Bryant made a layup, hit a 3-pointer and fed Gasol for a slam dunk. Odom added a bucket and just like that it was 80-58.

The crowd spent the ensuing tim-



Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom, middle, passes between Utah Jazz forward Paul Millsap, left, and forward Andrei Kirilenko during the first half of an NBA basketball first-round playoff game in Los Angeles, Monday, April 27, 2009.

eout cheering the celebrities shown on the big screen at Staples Center—John McEnroe, Dustin Hoffman, Glenn Frey and, of course, Jack Nicholson.

The Jazz cut the lead to 93-86 with 4:37 left but Bryant hit a turnaround jumper and Odom finished a fast break with a slam dunk to fend off Utah's late run.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 16 points

while Andrei Kirilenko and Deron Williams had 14 apiece.

Gasol had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Trevor Ariza 12 points for the Lakers.

The Lakers weren't particularly sharp in the first quarter, and the Jazz held on for a 26-all tie.

But when the Jazz took out Williams starting the second quarter, the Lakers

went on an 8-0 that put them ahead for good. Odom and Bryant each hit a 3-pointer and Bryant made two free throws for a 34-26 lead.

Nuggets 121, Hornets 63

At New Orleans, Carmelo Anthony scored all of his 26 points in the first three quarters, and Denver thoroughly dismantled New Orleans to take a commanding 3-1 lead in its first-round playoff series.

The New Orleans Arena was mostly empty by the end of the third quarter, when Denver led 89-50 on its way to matching the most lopsided victory in NBA playoff history. The Minneapolis Lakers beat the St. Louis Hawks 133-75 in 1956.

Looking twice as quick as the Hornets on both ends of the court, the Nuggets stifled Hornets All-Star Chris Paul, whose four points and six assists amounted to one of the worst games of his career.

The Nuggets can close out the series at home in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Hawks 81, Heat 71

At Miami, Zaza Pachulia had 12 points and 18 rebounds, and Atlanta raced out to a huge first-half lead and frustrated Dwyane Wade endlessly in tying its first-round Eastern Conference playoff series against Miami at two games apiece.

Mike Bibby scored 15 points, Joe Johnson added 14 and Josh Smith 13 for the Hawks.

Wade scored 22 points, doing so on 9-for-26 shooting and wincing at times from a back injury.

It was Atlanta's first road postseason win in nearly 12 years, a stretch spanning 13 games. Now the series returns to Atlanta on Wednesday for Game 5, and all the Hawks need is to defend their home court twice to get a second-round shot against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Yao, Rockets need 1 more against Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Youth and inexperience are catching up with the Portland Trail Blazers.

The youngest team in the postseason has struggled with Houston's Yao Ming to fall behind 3-1 in the playoff series with the Rockets and faces elimination Tuesday night in Portland.

Yao had 21 points and 12 rebounds in an 89-88 victory over the Blazers on Sunday night. Once his teammates were able to get him the ball inside, Yao was nearly unstoppable. When Portland tried to double him, that left someone else open.

"When Yao is scoring for us and gets a lot of touches, he's our foundation and we feel great every time he catches the ball because we know he commands so much attention that it's going to open up things for us," Rockets forward Shane Battier said.

While focused on Yao, the Blazers also made some crucial mistakes that cost them after leading 70-64 going into the fourth quarter.

Two obvious errors came with less than a minute to play. First, when a falling Joel Przybilla badly overthrew Steve Blake after rebounding Blake's missed 3-point attempt, the ball sailed into the backcourt. Then, with Houston leading 87-85, Portland's Brandon Roy drove to the basket and was called for an offensive foul when he ran into Chuck Hayes.

Portland was also hurt by giving up 10 offensive rebounds in the final quarter.

The victory moves Houston closer to advancing to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1997.

Portland has had trouble matching up with Yao the whole series. In Game 1, the Blazers had Przybilla play behind the 7-foot-6 center from China—which didn't work.

Portland seemed to find more success when Przybilla fronted him. A rarely used combination of Przybilla and rookie Greg Oden—both 7-footers—playing at the same time

also tricked the Rockets in Game 2, Portland's lone win thus far.

But the Rockets adjusted to all of Portland's schemes to stop Yao, and took both of the next two games in Houston.

"I really thought he countered them pretty good," Rockets coach Rick Adelman said. "He didn't get in a wrestling match with them as much as he had the first couple games. To be honest, they got some fouls when he was trying to move across the lane, but I thought he was smarter at moving across the lane."

Yao is averaging 15.8 points and 10.5 rebounds through the first four games of the best-of-seven series. Luis Scola leads the Rockets with an average of 16.8 points. He's also averaged 7.5 rebounds.

The Blazers are making their first appearance in the playoffs since 2003. They set the goal of making the playoffs at the start of the season, but surprisingly clinched the fourth seed in the Western Conference and home-court advantage.

Home court could help Portland on

Tuesday. The Blazers were 34-7 at the Rose Garden during the regular season.

Two-time All-Star Roy, a third-year player with no playoff experience, has the job of rallying his team for Game 5.

"I don't want anybody in our locker room to get down," said Roy, who had 31 points in Game 4 and is averaging 28.3 in the series. "I think this is a great experience. We're fighting extremely hard. There's just some minor things we have to improve on. And just going through this experience I think will help us in the long run."

Roy did not practice Monday afternoon because of flu-like symptoms, but he was listed as probable for Tuesday's game. A call to the Blazers to provide more details about his symptoms was not immediately returned.

LaMarcus Aldridge, who was averaging 16.5 points and 8.3 rebounds for Portland during the playoffs, also didn't practice Monday because of a right elbow strain. He was also expected to play in Game 5.

Ex-Nets star Williams in hospital after run-in with cops

NEW YORK (AP)—Officers stunned a drunken and agitated Jayson Williams with a Taser at a swank Manhattan hotel Monday morning after reports that the troubled ex-NBA star appeared suicidal, police said.

Police were called to the hotel in Battery Park City in lower Manhattan around 4 a.m. after a report that the former New Jersey Nets star was suicidal, authorities said.

When officers arrived, there were empty bottles of prescription drugs strewn around the disheveled hotel suite of the 6-foot-10 Williams, police said.

Emergency Services Unit police, an elite team trained to deal with emotionally disturbed people, responded and stunned Williams with a Taser, hand-cuffed him and took him to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

Williams played nine seasons in the NBA with the Nets and the Philadelphia 76ers before retiring in 2000.

He was convicted in 2004 of trying to cover up the shooting death of his hired driver Costas "Gus" Christofi at his mansion in Alexandria Township, N.J., in February 2002.

Williams was acquitted of aggravated manslaughter, but the jury deadlocked on a reckless manslaughter count. A retrial is pending. Williams has been free on bail since the shooting.

His wife filed divorce papers this year claiming he was abusive, adulterous and had a drug problem.

Williams' manager told the *Daily News* of *New York* outside a Manhattan hospital that the athlete was on the mend.

"Jayson is doing fine. He said he was fine," Akhtar Farzaie told the

newspaper. "All of us are here to be by his side as friends."

Williams graduated from New York City's Christ the King High School, one of the country's biggest producers of college and pro basketball stars.

He was a first-round pick in the 1990 NBA draft and went on to become a valuable Nets star. He was named an All-Star and ranked second in the NBA for the 1997-1998 with 13 rebounds per game and a league-high 443 offensive rebounds. An injury forced careerending surgery in 2000.

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers lose Walton to sprained ankle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luke Walton will miss at least one week of the NBA playoffs with a partial ligament tear in his left ankle. The Los Angeles Lakers' forward sprained his ankle in Saturday night's Game 3 at Utah. He had an MRI this morning, which revealed the partial tear of the deltoid ligament. Walton, a reserve, is out indefinitely and will be re-evaluated in one week. He is averaging 4.8 points and 2.5 rebounds for the Lakers, who have a 3-1 series lead over the Jazz going into Game 4 Monday night.

Bulls' Gordon day-to-day with hamstring strain

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Bulls star Ben Gordon is listed as dayto-day after an MRI confirmed he has a strained left hamstring. Gordon was hurt in the second quarter Sunday, then sent Game 4 into a second overtime with a 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds left. The Bulls beat the Celtics 121-118, tying the series 2-2 with Game 5 in Boston on Tuesday night. The shooting guard was injured on a drive to the basket and an MRI Monday morning confirmed the initial diagnosis. Later in the game, he was knocked to the floor on a hard foul by Glen Davis with 9.8 seconds left in the first overtime. Gordon is the leading scorer in the series with 24.8 points per game and scored 42 in Chicago's 118-115 loss in Game 2.

Bay hits 3-run homer as Red Sox win 11th straight



(AP)-Jason Bay hit a three-run homer in

the ninth inning off Cleveland's Kerry Wood to give the Boston Red Sox their 11th straight win, 3-1 on Monday night.

Bay fell behind 0-1 before pulling a 99-mph fastball from Wood (0-1) into the left-field seats as Boston extended its longest winning streak since 2006.

Bay's third hit sent the Red Sox to another drama-filled win. They were coming off an emotional three-game sweep at Fenway Park over the rival New York Yankees, a series that began with Bay connecting for a two-run, two-out homer in the ninth off Mariano Rivera.

In his last four games, Bay has nine hits with two homers and nine RBIs.

Tigers 4, Yankees 2

At Detroit, Justin Verlander had a seasonhigh nine strikeouts and Magglio Ordonez hit a two-run homer off CC Sabathia to lead the Tigers over the Yankees.

The Central Division-leading Tigers have won three straight, matching a season high.

New York has lost a season-high four in a row, equaling the most consecutive losses it had last season.

Verlander (1-2) pitched seven-plus scoreless innings, allowing seven hits and no walks and resembled the rising star he was in his first two seasons, not the pitcher who struggled last year and in his first four starts this season.

Rangers 6, Orioles 4

At Baltimore, Michael Young homered, David Murphy broke a tie with a two-run single in the sixth inning and the Rangers rallied to beat the Orioles.

Matt Harrison (1-2) gave up four runs in the first two innings, then retired 16 straight batters before Robert Andino hit a two-out single in the seventh. The lefthander allowed seven hits in seven innings to earn his first win in four starts.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 1

At Kansas City, Mo., Brian Bannister gave up one hit over seven innings and Jose Guillen hit two homers to lead the Royals over the Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays entered the game leading the majors in runs, batting average and slugging percentage, but Bannister limited them to Adam Lind's first-inning single. Bannister walked six, including five of the first 14 batters he faced.



Boston Red Sox's Jason Bay, right, is congratulated by David Ortiz after Bay hit a three-run home run off Cleveland Indians pitcher Kerry Wood in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 27, 2009, in Cleveland. Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia scored.

Bannister (2-0) has allowed one run and five hits in 13 innings in winning his two starts since being recalled April 22 from Triple-A Omaha. He retired 13 of the last 14 Blue Jays he faced.

Rays 7, Twins 1

At Minneapolis, Jeff Niemann kept the Twins guessing into the sixth inning and Carlos Pena hit his majors-leading ninth home run, lifting the Rays to a victory.

Niemann (2-2) gave up just three hits and one run in 5 2-3 innings and the bullpen didn't allow a run the rest of the way for the defending AL champions, who are off to an identical start as last season (8-12) before they went on a stunning run to the World Series.

Mets 7, Marlins 1

At New York, Omir Santos hit the first grand slam in Citi Field history for his first career RBIs, and the New York Mets beat Florida to extend the Marlins' losing streak to seven.

Santos' first-inning drive off Anibal Sanchez (1-2) went about four rows into the left-field seats and was just the sixth home run for the Mets at the pitcherfriendly ballpark, their first in six games since April 17. Daniel Murphy and David Wright tripled for New York, which has more three-base hits (seven) at its new ballpark than homers.

Cardinals 3, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Rick Ankiel drove in two runs for St. Louis to back another strong outing by Joel Pineiro, who equaled the best start of his career when the Cardinals edged the Braves.

Ankiel had a pair of two-out, run-scoring singles, one in the second inning to push the Cardinals to a 2-0 lead and another in the seventh for a 3-1 edge.

Astros 4, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Lance Berkman hit his 20th homer at Great American Ball Park, the most by any visiting player, and Hunter Pence hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning, leading the Astros to a victory over the Reds.

Pence's two-run double off Francisco

Cordero (0-1) broke a 1-all tie and sent the Astros to their 10th straight win at Great American Ball Park, a streak that started near the end of the 2007 season and is the longest in the majors.

Phillies 13, Nationals 11

At Philadelphia, Ryan Howard and Raul Ibanez each hit a grand slam, rallying the Phillies to a wild victory over the Nationals for their fourth straight win.

Howard's shot to center in the fifth inning tied the score at 6. After the Nationals scored four times in the eighth to go up 11-7, Ibanez capped a six-run surge in the bottom half with a two-out drive to right off Joel Hanrahan (0-1).

With star closer Brad Lidge nursing a sore knee, Ryan Madson got three outs for his first save this season. Lidge is day to day with inflammation in his right knee, the Phillies said.

Brewers 10, Pirates 5

At Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks broke open a tie game in the eighth inning with a run-scoring fielder's choice and had a career-high four RBIs, lifting the Brewers to a win over the Pirates.

Milwaukee fans got to hear AC/DC's "Hells Bells" for the first time this season when Trevor Hoffman entered in the ninth for his first outing in a Brewers uniform.

Weeks had a three-run homer, and Ryan Braun and Mike Cameron also connected for Milwaukee, which won its 13th in a row over Pittsburgh, but needed the extra runs after the bullpen squandered a 5-3 lead in the eighth: Carlos Villanueva allowed a two-out, two-run double to Freddy Sanchez.

Rockies 12, Padres 7

At Denver, Dexter Fowler tied a modernday rookie mark with five stolen bases as the Rockies ran past the Padres.

The fleet-footed Fowler gave the Padres fits all night, becoming the first rookie to steal that many bases since Damian Jackson on June 28, 1999. That contest also involved Colorado and San Diego.

The game was halted in the sixth inning when Brad Hawpe was hit in the neck by San Diego catcher Nick Hundley's throw to second. Hawpe was taken off the field in a cart and then to a hospital with a possible concussion.

Diamondbacks 7, Cubs 2

At Phoenix, Dan Haren threw a threehitter and broke open the game with a two-run double, and the Diamondbacks defeated the Cubs.

Haren (2-3) tossed his seventh complete game, his second with Arizona.

Chris Snyder hit his first homer for the Diamondbacks, who won consecutive games for the first time this season.

Alfonso Soriano led off the game by hitting a 1-1 pitch into the front row of the second deck in left field, his 52nd leadoff homer.

Giants 5, Dodgers 4

At San Francisco, With Barry Bonds watching from a front-row seat, the Giants scratched out a pair of eighthinning runs to rally past the Dodgers.

Rich Aurilia drove in the tying run on a dribbler up the first-base line and Edgar Renteria put the Giants ahead when he scored on pinch-hitter Bengie Molina's slow groundout to third.

Bonds received a warm welcome and waved to fans when he was introduced to the crowd.

CONCACAF cancels U-17 tourney over swine flu

NEW YORK (AP)—Concerns about players and coaches are based. championship in Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak.

Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and the United States had clinched spots in the semifinals of the tournament, being played in Tijuana. But after the Mexican government announced it was closing schools nationwide, CONCACAF said Monday it would abandon the tournament "to safeguard the health of players, officials and fans."

Health officials say 20 deaths in Mexico are confirmed to be from swine flu, which is also suspected of causing more than 100 other deaths there.

The U.S. team, which had won all three of its group matches, was heading back to Bradenton, Fla., where the

that were involved in the tournament," said Neil Buethe, spokesman for US Soccer. "If CONCACAF feels this is the best decision to ensure the safety of all the athletes, we support that."

The semifinals of the U-17 tournament were scheduled for Wednesday in Tijuana, with the championship and third-place matches on Saturday. All four teams will advance to the U-17 World Cup, which is Oct. 24-Nov. 15 in Nigeria.

CONCACAF, soccer's governing body for the North and Central American and Caribbean regions, also postponed the second leg of its Champions League finals until May 12. Cruz Azul and Atlante FC,

both Mexican teams, were to play about 35 miles from the capital. swine flu prompted CONCACAF to "Our primary concern is the safety Wednesday in Cancun for the title of "We are going to wait to see how though the San Luis Potosi Open will cancel the rest of its under-17 soccer of our athletes and all of the athletes CONCACAF's best club team.

Atlante leads the two-game series 2-0 after winning in Mexico City last week. CONCACAF will decide Tuesday whether to proceed with its beach championship, scheduled for Wednesday through Sunday in Puerto Vallarta.

Mexico City has been hit hardest by the swine flu epidemic, and many sports have already taken measures to help stem the outbreak. Three football games were played behind closed doors last weekend, and Cruz Azul had said it would do the same for this Saturday's game against Indios of Ciudad Juarez.

The Mexico City club played in an empty stadium Saturday at Pachuca,

the outbreak develops," said a spokeswoman Monday at the Mexican Football Federation, who said she was not authorized to give her name. "There is no general policy yet, it all depends on the decision of the individual clubs."

A top baseball team moved its games this week to northern Mexico, and a weekend diving tournament headed by leading Chinese diverswas held without any fans.

Mexico's national team, under new coach Javier Aguirre, has closed its training sessions this week at its center on the southside of the federal capital. Mexico is scheduled to host Trinidad and Tobago in a World Cup qualifying match June 10 in Mexico City. CON-CACAF secretary general Chuck

Blazer said it was too soon to know if that match will be rescheduled.

A Canadian Tour golf event will take place as scheduled this week, be closed to fans and local caddies

"We are taking every precaution with our players at San Luis Potosi and will watch the situation closely," said tour commissioner Richard Janes, who was in Mexico all last week.

Those precautions include the use of bottled water only, hand sanitizer, the availability of medical practitioners, and the recommendation players stay at the club and host La Loma Resort and not travel into the town of San

"While we have seen 10 to 15 players withdraw, our players are all independent contractors and many are still arriving from Latin America, the United States and Canada, all eager to play," Janes said.

Tomokane's homer sends DCCA to finals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



Pete Tomokane starred in Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' gutsy

15-14 comeback win against Freedom Air in the semifinals of 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Playing like a wounded tiger following their first defeat of the season to the Beach Boys last week, the defending champions rallied from a 11-14 deficit after six and a half innings to the chagrin of a visibly stunned Freedom Air team

Tomokane blasted a threerun homer in the seventh to send DCCA to the finals where sent DCCA to the loser's bracket the two teams will meet anew they will meet familiar foe Beach Boys starting tomorrow night at 7:30pm.

DCCA, however, enters the championship series in a bit of a handicap as Beach Boys has twice-to-beat advantage in the championship.

The Beach Boys became the first team to score a victory against DCCA. Their 20-7 win

and in the process earned a twiceto-beat advantage in the championship match.

Finance and Northern Marianas College will dispute the title in the women's division starting at 6:30pm. Finance also had the edge with its own twice-to-beat incentive against NMC.

In the event that DCCA will win against the beach Boys,

in a winner-take-all match for the crown.

The game will be played also on Thursday night.

The same thing will happen in the women's division finals' clash between Finance and NMC.

Presentation of special awards and championship trophies will follow immediately after the 2009 champions will be determined.

The Beach Boys were undefeated in the playoffs with wins over P&S, (19-17), No Zone, (19-17), and DCCA in that order.

DCCA took the pennant with a perfect 19-0 regular season record.

In the playoffs, the defending champions opened its campaign with wins over the Jets and Docomo before succumbing to the more aggressive play of the Beach Boys.

ary Ace), Olopai (February),

battling for the coveted Plas M.

Besides claiming a month-

ly title, an RGA member

can only qualify for the club

championship if he has com-

The club championship will feature the 12 monthly winners

and Tawanpiy (March).

Tagabuel trophy.

Tigilau sets season mark in RGA April Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



MORE

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From Page 28

Ray Tigilau recorded a seasonbest net score of 61 at Coral Ocean

Point Sunday to clinch the Refaluwasch Golf Association April Ace title.

The 22-handicapper Tigilau tamed the Agingan Point course, shooting a 43 and 40 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 83.

crossed the finish line in 35th

finished only 17th (3:37:30)

in XTERRA Saipan. But he

redeemed himself in the Taga-

man, coming in at fourth place

Completing the Top 5 in

PIC Double was Saipan's

Tyce Mister, who logged a

GARDNER

with a time of 3:11:31.

REZNE

From Page 28

Incidentally Tigilau set the score to beat for the April Ace when he notched a net 71 in a qualifying tournament last April 12 at Kingfisher Golf Links.

When he came back for the second monthly tournament, Tigilau was sharper, beating 23 other members of the RGA.

Junior golfer Ben Bae finished second in last weekend's tournament with his net 63. The 24-handicapper Ben tallied a net 41 on the front and 46 on the

The Tinian Headstart staff did

the swim in 47:29, tackled the

grueling bike course in 2:04:31,

and soldiered on in the run with

total time of 7:29:23. Mis-

ter was the first Saipan male

triathlete to cross the finish

line in Tagaman, clocking

in at 3:45:50 and second to

Butch Sublemente in XTER-

RA Saipan after recording

3:43:33. Sublemente timed

In the women's division,

Bucher completed a sweep,

tallying a total time of 6:24:35.

gram as well as pursue minors

in Athletic Training and Digi-

He said aside from the

school's excellent swimming

and academic programs, he also

chose to study in UH-Manoa be-

cause Hawaii is close to Saipan

and like his home islands, "the

beach is only a few minutes

away from the dorm I will be

year for the son of Eli and Mil-

let Wong, as he won the Male

Last year was a breakout

staying in."

in at 3:32:06.

Rounding out to the Top 5 were S. Kim Jin, J.J. Atalig, and John Rebuenog.

The 20-handicapper Jin was off to a tough start with a 44 on the front, but improved his game a bit on the back with a 41 for a gross 80 and net 65. Atalig, a 16-handicapper, was consistent at COP with his 42 and 41 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 83 and net 67.

Rebuenog also had a net 67, but lost to Atalig in the scorecard tiebreak on the front nine. Atalig tallied a net 34 after the first nine holes, while Rebuenog was a stroke behind with a net 35. The 24-handicapper Rebuenog shot a 47 on the front and 44 on the back for a gross 91.

Other RGA members who joined last Sunday's tournament were Ulysses Kapileo (net 84), Jess Wabol (73), Joe Wabol (73). Asterio Tawanpiy (77), Joe Demapan (82), Ben Duenas (73), Thompson Palik (DQ), Manny Mangarero (84), Sonny Flores (70), Jordon Kosam (80), Gerald Guerrero (72), Tom Tebuteb (71), Joji Taguchi (81), Tim Taguchi (78), Tars Olopai (73), Dwayne Stephens (84), Jerry Ayuyu (DQ), Jesse Seman (74), and Carl Hocog (78).

Hocog and Kapileo won the closest to the pin contests in holes No. 7 and 14, respectively.

With Tigilau winning the April Ace title, he now has a chance to compete in the RGA Club Championship in December, joining Cui Xian Lai (Janu-

with many of them, including

Switzerland's Renata Bucher,

Great Britain's Jim McConnel,

and Saipan's very own pro ath-

Braig (7:57:10), Kevin Carey

(8:09:07), Jose Ngiraibuuch

(8:16:08), Federico Fernan-

dez (8:43:06), Quincy John-

son (8:25:50), Manny Si-

Annual XTERRA Saipan

Championship and 20th Tag-

Last April 18, Wong teamed

up with biker Renato Calage

and Matthew Mancao to top the

XTERRA Saipan relay in a time

A week later on April 25.

Wong, Calage, and new recruit

Cesar Danao dominated the

Tagaman, recording a time of

aman Triathlon.

of 3:29:18.

3:23:03.

Nate Hawley

lete, Mieko Carey.

peted in at least six RGA sanctioned tournaments.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

W L Pct GB 13 6 .684 -Toronto 14 7 .667 -9 10 .474 4 9 11 .450 4 1/2 New York **Baltimore** 8 12 .400 5 1/2 Tampa Bay

Central Division

11 8 Detroit Kansas City 10 9 .526 1 9 9 .500 11/2 Chicago 9 11 .450 2 1/2 Minnesota 7 13 .350 4 1/2 Cleveland

West Division

12 7 .632 -Seattle Texas 10 .474 3 10 .412 4 11 .389 4 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division Florida Philadelphia 10 8 .556 1/2 Atlanta 9 10 .474 2 9 10 .474 2 New York 4 14 .222 6 1/2

Central Division

Washington

14 6 .700 -St. Louis .579 2 1/2 Pittsburgh 10 9 .526 3 1/2 Cincinnati 9 9 .500 4 Chicago Milwaukee 9 10 .474 4 1/2 8 12 .400 6 Houston

West Division

13 7 .650 -Los Angeles San Diego 10 9 .526 2 1/2 San Francisco 9 9 .500 3 8 11 .421 4 1/2 Colorado 7 11 .389 5

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 13, Washington 11 N Y Mets 7 Florida 1 St. Louis 3, Atlanta 2 Houston 4, Cincinnati 1 Milwaukee 10. Pittsburgh 5 Colorado 12, San Diego 7 Arizona 7, Chicago Cubs 2 San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 4 Detroit 4 N Y Yankees 2 Boston 3, Cleveland 1 Texas 6, Baltimore 4 Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 1 Kansas City 7, Toronto 1 Seattle at Chicago White Sox, ppd.,

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

LITTLE LEAGUE **STANDINGS Junior Division**

Patriots Ol'Aces D-9ers Red Sox 8 Lion Heart Fielders

back for a gross 87.

place with a time of 4:27:23. a time of 1:30:06.

> As well as getting invaluable experience by joining Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan the week before, for Manglona taking

> She clocked in at 2:56:55 in

XTERRA and 3:28:18 in Tag-

aman for about an hour-lead

over second placer and Saipan

Carey timed in at 3:43:33

in XTERRA Saipan, as she

slowed down midway in the

bike and in the run legs after

a bike crash at Mt. Tapochao.

She raced in Tagaman with

broken ribs and still finished

His first monthly award came

in February when he set a CNMI

15-18 division record in the

100m breaststroke on the way

to dominating the 3rd Annual

Saipan Swim Club Heptathlon

Wong then won back-to-

back monthly plums in April

and May for excelling in

meets in neighboring Guam.

He first competed in the

Guam Swimming Federation

ing second in the 50m butter-

In the 2008 Guam Cham-

Virtual Meet.

bet Mieko Carey.

part in the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest came with an added bonus of meeting and interacting with triathlon pros.

He met and became friends

second with a time of 3:32:58 for a total time of 7:17:14.

Another Saipan bet made it to the Top 3 with Kimiko Hasegawa submitting a total time of 8:53:37. Hasegawa posted 4:33:01 in XTERRA and 4:20:36 in Tagaman.

Twenty triathletes completed the PIC Double. The list included Saipan's Lewie Tenorio (7:36:46), Florian

tchon (9:37:34), and Brad Ruszala (9:14:10), Tinian's Joshua Manglona (9:18:17), Australia's Allan Collinson (9:11:12), and Spain's Albert Anton (8:20:02).

(8:21:37),

pionships, he took the High Point Trophy in the open class, claiming four gold medals, three silvers, and three bronzes. The meet also saw him break the CNMI age group and national records in the 100m breaststroke.

Wong also bagged monthly honors in October in November. He topped the dual meet between Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Swim Club in October and along the way reset the CNMI age group record in the 100m breaststroke for the third time.

And in November, he broke

breaststroke and finished on top of the field in the SSC All Schools Swim Meet. Just this past two weeks, Wong spearheaded the winning relay teams in the 8th

his own record in the 100m

All Island Invitational, winning in the 200m IM and the 100m backstroke, and plac-

Athlete of the Month plum a record five times en route to Wong will enroll at UHthe yearly NMASA Athlete of the Year award.

this Saturday, May 2, when they face Ol'Aces, who they already beat twice this season with scores of 18-5 in the first round last Feb. 21 and 11-7 in the sec-

Ol'Aces 5, D-9ers 1

Ol'Aces strengthened its hold of second place with a spirited win over the D-9ers last Saturday.

Ol'Aces are now 9-3 and they also virtually earned the No. 2 spot in the playoffs even if they lose their two remaining games of the regular season.

fly and 50m freestyle.

Fielders 5, **Lion Heart 3**

Also last Saturday, the Fielders dealt the Lion Heart their first defeat of the weekend with a 5-3 decision.

Winning pitcher Patrick Tenorio was steady on the mound in seven complete innings with four strikeouts. He gave up only seven hits, three stolen bases, and three runs while issuing two walks.

On offense, Tenorio singled

thrice in four times at bat and reached home plate twice, while Poland Masaharu went 3-for-3 with a run and an RBI single in the third as the Fielders erected a 3-0 lead

However, the win was only the fourth in 16 outings for the Fielders and the Lion Heart suffered their ninth loss in 13 games.

Three Lion Heart pitchers, R.S. Roppul, Vicente Camacho, and Ricardo Dela Cruz, combined for 10 strikeouts. They allowed eight hits, four walks, six stolen bases, and five runs.

D-9ers 9, Red Sox 3

The D-9ers, the only team to score a win so far against the Patriots this year, bounced back with a 9-3 victory over the Red Sox last Sunday.

Peter Lieto walked to first base four times and contributed two runs. L.J. Norita went 3-for-3 with a run and RBI, while Zack Aldan had a 2-for-4 stint at the plate with two runs and a triple.

team, but I don't have any

scholarship for it. I am not fast enough for their NCAA Division I team. They have guys coming from the best high school swim teams from Florida, California, Australia, and even Italy. But I hope to improve my times, so that the following year I can get a scholarship for it," said the stalwart of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

Manoa's Marine Biology Pro-

card, good only for fifth place.

Brian Camacho went 1-for-3

with two runs, Jeremy Rabauli-

man also had a 2-for-3 perfor-

mance along with a run, while

Henry Rabauliman (1-for-3, two

runs, an RBI) and Alan Aguon

(1-for-3, one run, one RBI) also

The Patriots will close out

their regular season schedule

contributed in the win.

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

ond round last March 29.

2009 Taga Kids Triathlon



Several finishers in the 2009 Taga Kids Triathlon pose at the American Memorial Park signage.



Taga Kids winners pose with 20th Tagaman Triathlon participant Melanie Daly, left back row, during the awards ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bryce Daly completes the first lap of the two-lap bike race in Saturday's 2009 Taga Kids Triathlon.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kento Akimaru in action in the first lap of the bike leg in Saturday's 2009 Taga Kids Triathlon.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Luther Lizama touches the tape in Saturday's 2009 Taga Kids Triathlon.



From left, Bryce Daly, Gabrielle Race, and Maxi Braig, pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 10 to 12 age group race at the Pacific Islands Club.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Top finisher (10 to 12 age group) Maxi Braig approaches the bike-run



ROSELYN B. MONROYO A Taga Kids biker and runners near the finish line in Saturday's 2009 Taga Kids Triathlon.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Logan Mister crosses the finish line, as a spectator cheers him on in Saturday's 2009 Taga Kids



U6 to U9 participants find time to play, as they wait for the start of the swim race at Micro Beach.

Tomokane's homer sends DCCA to finals



Pete Tomokane starred in Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' gutsv 15-14 comeback win against Freedom Air in the semifinals of 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government Slow-pitch Softball League Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield. **26**



Lakers close out Jazz with 107-96 win

With Bryant making everything from 3-pointers to a fadeaway jumper while falling on his backside, the Lakers ran away from the Utah Jazz on Monday night, winning 107-96 to finish the openinground series in five games. 24



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009

Gardner, Bucher win PIC Double



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
PIC Double finishers pose with Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly during the 20th Tagaman Triathlon awards ceremony Saturday night held at the PIC beach front.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

nited Kingdom's Sam Gardner and Switzerland's Renata Bucher earned a return trip to Saipan for next year's Sports Fest after winning the PIC Double Saturday.

The PIC Double titles in the men's and women's divisions are given to participants with the best combined time for the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon. They get a free airfare and accommodations at Pacific Islands Club in the two-weekend

ties. Gardnerruled the Crown Jew- XTEFFR el of XTERRA SAIPAN

triathlon festivi-

Series, posting a time of two hours, 34 minutes, and 32 seconds two weeks ago. The U.K. triathlete finished second only to JapaTagaman Triathlon last Saturday, but Gardner's time of 3:02:03 against the latter's 2:59:41, was enough to give him the PIC Double

CAMAN

Gardner had a combined time of

5:36:35, 15 minutes

ahead of last year's PIC Double winner Andrew Noble (5:51:30) of Australia.

Noble, who arrived on Saipan only a nese Masauki Matsumaru in the 20th day before XTERRA was only fourth in the trail race and third in Tagaman to finish second overall in PIC Double.

Jim McConnel of the U.K. was third with his combined time of 6:09:15. McConnel placed sixth (2:52:34) in XTERRA Saipan Championship and fifth (3:11:41) in Tagaman.

New Jersey-based Filipino triathlete Arland Macasieb ranked fourth in the PIC Double with a total time of 6:49:01. Macasieb had a slow start in the two-weekend Sports Fest, as he See GARDNER on Page 26

Rezne to red-shirt at JH-Manoa

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR



Rezne Wong, the 2008 Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Athlete of the Year, will enroll at the University of Hawaii-Manoa next school year.



The 18-yearold Marianas High School senior said while he will not officially be part of the Rainbow Warriors' swimming team, its

head coach Victor Wales allowed him to train with them as a walk-on. "I will be training with the swim

See REZNE on Page 26

More than a race for former Miss CNMI

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

For Janet King, competing in the 20th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday was a way of inspiring her beloved but ailing mother to exercise.

The ex-Public Defender Office attorney took part in the relay of the 1.5-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run triathlon, teaming up with swimmer Andrew Kimball and runner

The trio came in sixth place with a time of 4:03:03, but finishing the longest-running multi-sport event in Micronesia and taking home a shiny medal was just the tip of the iceberg for the former Miss CNMI.

According to King, her 66-yearold mother sees sports competitions like Tagaman as motivation to exercise her own body. King said that the left side of her mother's body was affected by a major brain hemorrhage that happened about two and half years ago.

"It left her in a completely debilitated state, but my mom is a strong woman," said King. "She's so happy and proud, and says 'I can, too," said King, describing her mother's reaction to the medal.

King resigned from her post at PDO last year to take care of her mother, Lucy Han King. Her father, Juan Borja King, passed away on Oct. 9, 2008.



Former Miss CNMI Janet King, left, poses with her 66-year-old mother, Lucy Han King, following her participation in last weekend's 20th Tagaman Triathlon

King's Tagaman stint concluded her two-week experience in the 2009 Saipan Sport Fest.

Last April 18, she took part in the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship and although she didn't finish, her generosity by lending her bike to Quincy Johnson paved the way for former national swimmer and current national cager to finish first in the 20-

It was kind of bittersweet for King, as her good friend and fellow Tinian resident Joshua Manglona also competed in the division and finished second to Johnson, barely missing out on an invitation to the 2009 XTERRA World Championships on Oct. 25 in Makena, Hawaii.

Manglona incidentally also tackled the Tagaman last Saturday and See MORE on Page 26

Patriots take top spot in playoffs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The Patriots virtually took the No. 1 spot for the playoff round with ease last Sunday by beating

defending champion Kagman Lion

Heart, 7-4, in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

With only a game left for the threetime Major Division titlists, the Patriots are riding high with a 13-1 record as they further buried the Lion Heart in the team standings with a 4-8 win-loss See PATRIOTS on Page 26

